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DAILY REPORT

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Vol III No 037 *23 February 1984*

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CW BAN GIVES U.S. 'OPPORTUNITY' FOR 'GOOD WILL'

LD221734 Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS -- The TASS military analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

At the Geneva disarmament conference, the Soviet Union has come out with additional exceptionally important proposals on measures of control ensuring the security and interests of all states parties to the future international convention on the prohibition of chemcial weapons.

For many years the American side at the talks frustrated the adoption of the constructive proposals of the Soviet Union and other countries on the working out of an international convention prohibiting chemcial weapons on the pretext of "shortcomings in the system of monitoring its observance." The United States even set forth the thesis that supposedly control over the ban on toxic chemicals is absolutely necessary but absolutely impossible. This position of the United States totally excluded the possibility of reaching any whatsoever agreement on the prohibition of this barbarous and heinous weapon of mass annihilation. In recent times the United States insisted on the inclusion in the agreement of such on-site inspection measures which in the opinion of specialists differed little from legalised espionage.

It should be noted that the Soviet Union, the countries of the socialist community are interested in a reliable verification of the observance of the adopted obligations no less than other countries. Striving to bring the talks on chemical weapons out of the impasse created by certain countries and proceeding from the principle of equality and equal security, the Soviet side now proposes a wide spectrum of methods of verifying observance of the ban on chemcial weapons. These include, in particular, the use of national technical means of control, on-site inspection within the framework of the principle of voluntary, international, systematic on-site inspections on the basis of annual quotas.

These measures proposed by the Soviet Union are sufficiently effective and by themselves can ensure a sufficiently reliable monitoring of the observance of the agreement.

Nevertheless, considering the position of some participants in the talks and showing sincere interest in progress in the work of the Geneva forum, the Soviet delegation has stated readiness in principle to positively consider the proposal on the permanent presence of representatives of international control bodies at the specialised facilities for the destruction of the stocks of chemcial weapons.

To this day the impression of many observers is that the United States traditionally is extremely hostile to the conclusion of any agreement banning chemical weapons. For fifty years the United States refused to ratify the 1925 Geneva protocol prohibiting the use in war of asphyxiating, toxic, and other such gases. The United States made extensive use of chemcial weapons during the aggressive war in Vietnam. In July 1980, Washington frustrated the bilateral Soviet-American talks on the working out of a joint initiative for the disarmament committee onthe prohibition of chemical weapons and for a long time blocked progress at the talks in the committee itself. At present the United States Administration is pushing through Congress an unprecedented programme of developing offensive chemical weapons of a fundamentally new type.

The United States now has a real opportunity to display its good will. The readiness of the United States to follow the example of the Soviet Union in the search for mutually acceptable decisions would have opened the road to the drafting of a convention banning chemical weapons.

Further procrastination with the solution of the problem of banning chemical weapons threatens with a new spiral of the arms race and a serious growth of the danger of the whole of our planet turning into a gigantic "gas chamber."

'Honest, Serious' Proposal

LD222041 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] As we have already reported, the USSR delegation at the Geneva Disarmament Conference has submitted a new proposal on measures of control over the prohibition of chemical weapons. Here is a latest news commentary: At the microphone is our political observer Aleksandr Zholkver.

[Zholkver] The Soviet Union's new proposal is a vivid manifestation of the continuity and consistency of our country's peace-loving foreign policy course. Its main initiatives were reaffirmed at the February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, emphasized that the USSR will interact fully with all states that are prepared to assist by practical deeds in reducing international tension and creating an atmosphere of trust in the world.

In relations with the capitalist countries, the USSR is invariably guided by the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence among states with differing social systems. In our nuclear missile age, this principle is more necessary than ever.

In recent years our country has produced many important initiatives which are designed to consolidate peace on the planet. I will recall the USSR's commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and the socialist community's proposal regarding the conclusion of a treaty on using no armed force whatsoever. All these proposals remain fully in force.

In certain Western capitals and especially in Washington, people have recently started talking about a "desire for peace." Following the meeting of the special NATO consultative group, which has just been held in Brussels, Burt, assistant to the U.S. secretary of state, ostentatiously expressed the hope of "the USSR's new readiness to return to the negotiations table." It must be said, however, that on this occasion NATO is forcing an open door, so to speak, for quite definite statements have been issuing from Moscow these last few days to the effect that the Soviet Union is indeed ready for talks. However, this call is, of course, for talks that are honest and serious, on the basis of equality and equal security.

Meanwhile, this same NATO consultative group, as it is known, has been engaged in preparations for the deployment of American Pershing II and cruise missiles in West Europe. Now all the Atlantic calls for a resumption of dialogue are evidently called upon merely to reassure the public and to cover up the additional buildup of America's first-strike potential.

We can clearly see the threat created for mankind by the reckless actions of the aggressive forces of imperialism. We do not need military superiority, but we will not permit the military balance which has been achieved to be upset. The February Central Committee Plenum reaffirmed that our country will continue to pursue a policy that is directed toward delivering mankind from the threat of a nuclear world war. We will not retreat a single step from that policy.

U.S. Chemical Program Hit

LD230526 Moscow TASS in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Robert Serebrennikov writes:

The international public is deeply concerned over the program of "additional chemical armament" being implemented feverishly by the Washington administration. Huge allocations for that program will be discussed in debates on the budget for 1985 fiscal year at the session of Congress, which resumed its work. Such concern is understandable, if one takes into account that many peoples know by their bitter experience how the Pentagon military actively resorts to the use of one of the most barbarous, inhuman, and amoral types of weapons of mass destruction to further U.S. military-political and strategic aims.

Korea became in the post-war period the first test range for combat actions of the U.S. Army with the use of toxic agents.

During the military intervention in Indochina, the United States unleashed chemical warfare, unprecedented for its proportions, duration, and consequences. Toxic agents effected hundreds of thousands of people in Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea; they inflicted an irreparable damage upon the national economy and the environment. According to the data of the press, 44 million litres of toxic "agent orange," which contains highly toxic dioxin, were sprayed in Vietnam alone. 44 percent of the farm lands were damaged, and up to 43 percent of tropical forests were destroyed as a result of that act of genocide. The poisoned land in Indochina is still barren, and heavy consequences of the U.S. large-scale chemical warfare are still felt.

The wrath and indignation of peoples of the world did not prevent the United States from using chemical weapons in the course of its bandit aggression against the people of tiny Grenada, against patriots of El Salvador waging armed struggle for freedom and independence. There is also material evidence of the use of American-made chemical weapons by gangs of counterrevolutionaries in Afghanistan. Chemical bombs and grenades, marked "Made in USA," were repeatedly demonstrated at press conferences in Kabul.

Washington's "strategic allies" -- the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa and Israel -- are also seeking possession of chemical weapons with U.S. support and approval.

Facts of broad use by the United States of monstrous arsenals of chemical weapons, now being replenished with a new generation of weapons of mass destruction -- binary nerve gas ammunition, show what a great danger comes from the policy of extreme adventurism of the U.S. ruling circles which for the sake of furthering their imperial aims are ready to turn whole areas of the world into "chemical gas chambers."

U.S.-USSR Stands Contrasted

LD211632 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Here is a commentary to our news analyst Yuriy Soltan about the Soviet approach to an East-West dialogue:

There seems to be one curious trend in what the press in the West is now writing and what politicians are saying. Washington and other NATO capitals have all suddenly begun talking about the importance of normalizing relations with the socialist countries and on seeking agreement on limiting arms.

Of course, one could have only welcomed such statements if they didn't lack one significant thing, and that is constructive proposals.

There isn't even a hint about a readiness to return to the situation which existed before the deployment of American medium-range nuclear missiles began in the West European countries, and that was what seriously aggravated the situation in both Europe and the whole world and led the the breakdown of the talks on disarmament.

The United States and its allies in NATO are pretending that nothing special has happened. What is more, rumors are spread that now the Soviet Union has started changing its stand and begun reconciling with the fact that the first-strike nuclear missiles have appeared close to the borders of the socialist countries. The purpose of those fabrications is clear: The NATO leaders would like to lull the public and cover up their policy of continuing the arms race and of confrontation with talk about wanting to negotiate.

Before, too, the Soviet Union repeatedly warned the NATO countries about the serious consequences the deployment of the Euromissiles will have and about the reciprocal military measures that will be taken, and that principled stand was confirmed by the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Konstantin Chernenko, when he met with Western political leaders.

The Soviet Union sees clearly the threat to mankind and the actions of the aggressive forces of imperialism and their attempts to break the military parity which objectively is in the interests of peace. And the Soviet Union will do all it can to protect its own security and the security of its friends and allies. At the same time, the USSR would not like to believe that the present international situation is irreversible. It has been and remains a supporter of solving all disputes, including disarmament problems, through negotiations. But those should be serious and constructive negotiations, based on equality and equal security. There remain in force the Soviet proposals on fully ridding Europe of nuclear and chemical weapons, on a radical reduction of strategic arms and on demilitarization of space and others. The USSR is also ready to come to terms on large-scale measures to build up trust among countries, and a pledge of all nuclear powers not to be the first to use nuclear weapons would to a big extent help achieve that; the Soviet Union has already made that pledge unilaterally.

The degree of trust would also increase substantially if the NATO countries agreed to the proposal of the Warsaw Treaty countries not to use armed forces in general. In his statement, Konstantin Chernenko stressed that the Soviet Union will cooperate in full measure with all countries that are ready with practical deeds to help lessen international tension and create an atmosphere of trust in the world.

MULTIPURPOSE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ANALYZED

PM221500 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 5

[Candidate of Military Sciences V. Makarevskiy "IZVESTIYA Military Review": "They Call Them 'Conventional'..."]

Text] Addressing the CPSU Central Committee's extraordinary plenum, K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed that "in formulating the plans for our country's further development, we cannot fail to take account of the situation prevailing in the world."

"As you know, it is now complex and tense." The accuracy of this assessment is confirmed by the realities of our time, which are experiencing the impact of Washington's course toward an accelerated arms race.

One manifestation of the U.S. strategy of "direct confrontation" with the Soviet Union is the accelerated preparation of the material base for the launching of wars. Here attention is drawn to the increasing desire in the West and above all in the United States to make conventional weapons one of the main items of the arms race, along with nuclear weapons.

U.S. General B. Rogers, supreme commander of the NATO Allied Armed Forces in Europe, is calling for a conventional arms buildup in the bloc countries. U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger is calling for the same. They are demanding an annual increase of at least 4 percent in the NATO countries' military spending.

The increase in military spending in the United States and the NATO countries is sparking off an arms race in all spheres. Thus, the Warsaw Pact states' Prague Political Declaration says: "In view of the continual improvement and increasing power of conventional weapons, new efforts must be made to substantially reduce the current levels of conventional arms and armed forces both globally and in particular regions, and corresponding talks must be held with this aim in mind."

Nuclear weapons represent the main danger to mankind. However, the conventional weapons in the arsenals of the United States, its NATO allies, Japan, and other states also play a very dangerous role. That role is determined both by their very broad distribution in the world and by the fact that conventional weapons are operational, that is, they are currently being used in armed conflicts.

A number of modern types of arms are multipurpose: They can be equipped with both nuclear and conventional explosives, as well as with toxins. This makes their identification and the control of weapons of mass destruction difficult and serves to obliterate the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons. Cruise missiles are an example of this: of the 12,000 units planned for production, several thousand will be nuclear-armed and many thousand will be conventional. How can they be distinguished?

One dangerous feature of conventional arms is their very broad distribution in the world. According to the figures of the London Institute of Strategic Studies, there are 44 countries that have armed forces numbering over 100,000 men each. The total strength of armed forces in the world has risen by 4.4 million men or 20 percent in the past 10-12 years, and it now stands at 26 million. They have between 124,000 and 128,000 tanks and over 35,000 warplanes. This is just one manifestation of the arms race launched by the United States in recent years. Washington is carrying out a program to build up its armed forces by 250,000 men in the current 5-year period, even though they already total over 3 million.

The greatest accumulation of armed forces and conventional arms can be seen in Europe, where the largest NATO grouping, armed with the most modern weaponry and numbering about 3.5 million men and over 25,000 tanks, (including those in reserve), is stationed.

This concentration of troops and combat hardware transforms this region and indeed other regions of the planet into a potential danger to peace. That is why the efforts of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries aimed at limiting and reducing not only nuclear, but also conventional arms and armed forces, are so great.

One of the consequences of World War II and the result of the formation and development of the world socialist system and the peoples' national liberation struggle was the complete collapse of the colonial system and the formation of a large number of liberated countries. Most of them gained their independence and sovereignty by armed force, overcoming the resistance of imperialism, reactionary forces, and internal counterrevolution. That struggle continues to this day.

During wars and military conflicts on the territories of so-called "Third World" countries, the imperialist states test out new types of weapons and rehearse new ways of using them. The countries where this happens serve as huge testing grounds, and the tests are carried out not under peaceful but under combat conditions -- on many hundreds of thousands of people. A graphic example of this is provided by the aggressive actions of Israel and the United States in Lebanon, Britain in the South Atlantic, and the United States in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Grenada.

Other large-scale events are still fresh in the peoples' memories. In the Korean war -- one of the first wars after World War II -- the Americans used new combat devices -- napalm, other incendiary munitions, jet aircraft, and helicopters.

One-third of the U.S. Armed Forces took part in the Vietnam war and over 15 million tons of munitions were used against the countries of Indochina -- 3 times more than the amount used by all the warring countries during World War II. Helicopters of different types and purposes were used there, as were chemical munitions. Over 2 million people suffered from the use of U.S. chemical weapons, and the natural environment in Vietnam suffered tremendous damage. Guided aerial bombs and increased capacity bombs with a radius of destruction of up to 500 meters were used for the first time.

Guided anti-aircraft and antitank missiles and electronic warfare devices have been used on a massive scale in wars in the Near East. In the opinion of some foreign experts, more equipment was destroyed in just the few days of the 1973 war than in weeks of major operations during World War II. The aggressors' aircraft used concrete-piercing and antipersonnel bombs against protected targets and for blanket bombing of unprotected personnel. Remote control bombs, antiradar guided shells, and the very latest surveillance and jamming devices were used. The aggressor used U.S. antitank cluster against tanks over large areas.

During Israel's aggression in Lebanon in 1982, U.S.-made "overpressure" or "vacuum" bombs were used for the first time, as well as antipersonnel and phosphorus shells and bombs. The Israeli troops also used needle shells.

Experience shows that local wars have a great influence on the development of conventional arms and serve as catalysts in this process. They are always fraught with the danger of developing into large scale wars threatening world peace.

Back in 1978, speeches by Soviet leaders noted the appearance of conventional weaponry with great destructive force and called for their production to be halted.

These conventional munitions with great destructive force include shells, bombs, mines, torpedoes, missiles, and flamethrowers armed with explosives of increased power or special mixtures which, combined with the weapons' special design, increased range, area, and accuracy, possess and enhanced casualty-producing and destructive effect which in a number of respects makes them similar to low-yield nuclear munitions. This is the threat that many types of modern conventional weapons pose!

Wars involving the use of conventional weapons are dangerous by virtue of the possibility that they may develop into nuclear war.

A particular characteristic of modern munitions is accuracy of a previously unattainable order. Just a few guided missiles (bombs or shells) are now sufficient, instead of many hundreds of munitions. Reconnaissance and strike complexes are now being developed which combine in a single system reconnaissance facilities and automated guidance and strike facilities.

An example of the sharp increase in destructive effect is provided by the U.S. "vacuum bomb" which uses special liquids and gases instead of conventional explosives. Dispersed in the air in aerosol form, they produce vast explosive fuel and air mixtures. Their detonation creates a powerful shock wave whose effect extends for tens of meters and in new versions up to 250 meters, such a bomb is currently 4-6 times more powerful and promises to become 10-20 times more powerful than a high-explosive munition of equal weight.

The target killing zone is sharply increased by the use of aerial cluster bombs, salvo fire missile systems, and guns. The killing zone is measured not in hectares, as before, but in square kilometers. The latest munitions can be used over the same distances as nuclear munitions using missiles of various ranges. Ways are also being developed of using all types of conventional weapons based on the combination of highly accurate munitions, to destroy important individual targets, and saturation munitions which hit a large number of targets at the same time.

The use of munitions is being increasingly combined with flat and high trajectory strike elements; in other words, the "frontal attack" (flat trajectory fire) principle is being supplemented by "vertical" attack, which ultimately leads to the multidimensional destruction of targets over a sizable area, [obyemnoye porazheniye tseley, prostranstvennyy okhvat ikh], increases the casualty-producing effect, and makes it more difficult to protect troops and civilians.

The main reason for the development of such devices is the imperialist states' desire to obtain virtual weapons of mass destruction [massovoye porazheniye] at a time when the peace-loving forces' demand that nuclear weapons be banned has assumed unprecedented dimensions and when the Soviet Union has pledged not to be first to use them. The latest types of armaments are deemed to be "conventional" weapons which, it is claimed, do not threaten nuclear escalation.

The "Rogers Plan," adopted by the Western countries at the end of 1982, envisages delivering preemptive strikes deep inside the Warsaw Pact countries' territories using precision-guided armaments against "enemy" concentrations behind the front line. The West's use of technical achievement in the conventional arms sphere is supposed to reduce its dependence on the use of tactical nuclear weapons at the very outset of a war. This is not the case, however. There is no attempt to reduce the European NATO countries' dependence on U.S. nuclear weapons. This is confirmed by the deployment of the new U.S. medium-range missiles. In fact, this is a question not of a change in NATO strategy, but of the strengthening of the non-nuclear arms components.

The increase in the threat of the use of the new combat facilities demands that conventional arms be limited and reduced, and that the most dangerous types be banned.

A positive example is provided by the 2 June 1982 USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree "On Ratifying the Convention on Banning or Limiting the Use of Specific Types of Conventional Weapons Which May Be Considered Excessively Harmful or Indiscriminate in Their Action."

The convention envisages a procedure for elaborating new protocols banning the cruellest types of conventional weapons. Its conclusion is an undisputed success for the Soviet and the socialist countries' diplomacy.

Such a major socialist community initiative as the Warsaw Pact states' proposal on the conclusion of a treaty on the mutual nonuse of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations is aimed at averting the terrible consequences that the use of modern conventional weapons could have: This treaty could also incorporate mutual commitments by the states not to be first to use either nuclear or conventional arms against each other.

Confirming the continuity and peace-loving nature of the USSR's Leninist foreign policy, Comrade K.U. Chernenko stated: "The Soviet Union, as a great socialist power, is fully aware of its responsibility to the peoples for preserving and strengthening peace. We are open to peaceful, mutually beneficial cooperation with the states of all continents. We support the peaceful solution of all international disputes by means of serious, equitable, and constructive talks. The USSR will fully cooperate with all states that are prepared to take practical actions to help to reduce international tension and to create an atmosphere of trust in the world."

The stance of the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community thus opens up broad opportunities for eliminating the military threat to the peoples of the world. Much could also be done in this sphere by the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. It is now a matter of the desire and good will of the United States and the other NATO countries.

TRENDS OF CEMA INTEGRATION MEASURES REVIEWED

PM161618 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Feb 84 First Edition p 5

[Article by Candidate of Economic Sciences V. Lizun under the rubric "Socialist Community": "Intensive Growth Programs"]

[Text] There are about 4,000 economic alliances in the world today. Many of them put forward among their tasks the elimination of the backwardness of individual states or regions. Some 35 years ago, when CEMA was being created, "hauling up" all its members to the level of the leading ones seemed almost unattainable to Western specialists. The gulf between the highly industrialized USSR, GDR, and Czechoslovakia and the backward agrarian Romania and Bulgaria and Mongolia, which joined CEMA somewhat later, was too great. In the time which has elapsed since then much has been done. Compared with 1950 the gulf between the CEMA countries has been halved in terms of per capita national income and decreased by a factor of 2.5 in terms of industrial output.

They say that everything is understood through comparison. If we take the European "Common Market," the gulf here between the leading and backward regions and increased in recent decades: In the course of the seventies, for instance, the difference in per capita GNP levels in the 10 most developed and 10 least developed regions of the Common Market increased 50 percent. What is it that enables the socialist countries to resolve the problems on which the capitalist states' economic associations "founder?"

First of all the advantages of the socialist economy, which ensures rapid, stable development rates for production forces. Even in the course of the seventies, which for a number of reasons were by no means the most favorable to the CEMA countries, the growth rates of their national income and industrial output were almost double those of the industrial capitalist states. Having chosen the path of socialism, the backward countries are thus joining the ranks of the world's most dynamically developing group of states. Powerful impetus to their development is provided by the use of the advantages of the qualitatively new type of international relations which have taken shape in the socialist community. Relations whose characteristic feature has become socialist internationalism, in other words the readiness of the industrially highly developed countries to render all-around effective aid to those who are still lagging behind.

Of course, the rendering of such aid is also mentioned in the statutory documents of the capitalist countries' economic organizations like the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the EEC itself. Life shows, however, that only the socialist community can transfer these declarations to the daily practice of interstate relations.

In contrast to the capitalist powers, the industrially developed socialist states consider the fact that the complete levelling of conditions of economic and scientific and technical cooperation would put the countries with an initially low development level in an unequal position. That is why a system of preferential benefits has been developed and is being applied for them within the CEMA framework. A consideration for the special position of these countries in the practice of economic cooperation is one of its functional aspects. Thus, the International Bank for Economic Cooperation (it is through the bank that the CEMA countries do their mutual accounts) supplies Mongolia and Cuba with credits at an annual interest rate of 0.5-2 percent, while it gives other countries credits at an interest rate of 3.25-5 percent. For comparison's sake, the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which are dominated by the United States and other Western powers, give the developing states loans at an annual interest rate of 10 percent, and the poorest countries at a rate of 18 percent and more.

The organizational aspects of the system of preferential benefits includes the creation within CEMA, on a standing or ad hoc basis, of special working groups, scientific collectives, and so forth engaged in specific problems of accelerating the development of a particular country. A graphic example is the many years' activity on Mongolian territory of the CEMA countries' International Geological Expedition, which has already discovered over 50 deposits of tungsten, molybdenum, fluoride, and other minerals. And, finally, juridically, the legal aspects of the system of preferential benefits implies that its provisions be reflected in the CEMA program and regulation documents, particularly the comprehensive program of socialist economic integration which has outlined a wide range of measures to accelerate the development of countries with backward economies.

The extensive, selfless aid rendered to these countries creates favorable conditions for them to attain, in key national economy sectors, more rapid growth rates than those of the leading states, thereby ensuring the successful implementation of the law of the equalization of development levels. While in 1960 through 1981 the generation of electricity in the industrially developed CEMA countries increased 150-400 percent, in the countries with an initially low development level the figure was 700-1,400 percent.

Of course, the forms and methods of internationalist aid at the various stages of development of the socialist community do not remain unchanged. In the first years of CEMA's activity it was implemented mainly on a gratuitous basis. Recently, maintaining the gratuitous principles, the tendency toward reciprocal benefit and repayment of material, financial, scientific, and technical assistance given to lagging states has intensified.

Of course, such development is implemented on the basis of strict respect for the national sovereignty and independence of the socialist states. In CEMA, for example, all decisions are taken with the agreement of interested countries. If a country is not interested in a particular question, the recommendations adopted by the other CEMA states are not extended to include it. Thus, according to their interest only 6 of the 10 CEMA members took part in the creation of the Ust-Ilimsk plant. And seven council members took part in the construction of the gas pipeline linking Orenburg with the USSR's western border.

In CEMA and the financial-production and scientific-technical organizations affiliated to it, the rights of all the countries are absolutely identical. The Soviet Union, for example, whose quota in the International Bank of Economic Cooperation is around 38 percent, has only one vote on the bank's council, which is the same as any other average or small country whose contribution is much less. A striking contrast with the Common Market or with the IMF, where the United States has as many votes as 80 developing countries put together.

Accelerating the development of countries which are still lagging behind is directly linked with deepening the international socialist division of labor. For example, the coordination of economic plans is used as an important lever for improving the efficiency of national production.

Deepening international specialization and production sharing brings with it truly tremendous reserves for countries with poorly developed economies. "Unloading" from the national economic complex production units which are known to be inefficient enables them to concentrate efforts and funds on the most promising sectors of industry or agriculture in the specific national conditions.

Bulgaria provides an eloquent example of the potential which interstate production specialization entails. Before it joined CEMA, it exported only vegetables and cigarettes onto the world market. Now the republic is the main supplier of electric hoists and motorized and electric trucks to the socialist states.

In the second half of the seventies long-term specialization production and sharing programs began to be implemented within the CEMA framework. They are closely coordinated with the long-term targeted cooperation programs in the most important sectors of physical production. In focusing their main efforts on the determining sectors of the national economic complex, the socialist countries at the same time have the opportunity to "echelon" their development for many years ahead -- in particular, for example by creating a reliable fuel of energy base. One of the long-term targeted cooperation programs, incidentally, is aimed at expanding cooperation in the sphere of fuel and raw materials. This approach enables countries with an initially low level of production forces to join actively in the international socialist division of labor, choosing the shortest way to overcome economic backwardness. The directions of such "involvement" can already be seen quite distinctly. Thus, Romania is developing large-scale production of tractors and drilling equipment, and Cuba, as well as modernizing and expanding sugar refineries, is rapidly developing the nickel industry.

The implementation of coordinated plans for multilateral integrated measures also helps accelerate the development of countries with backward economies. Within the framework of these plans, the socialist countries pool their material, financial, and labor resources in order to implement large-scale projects. Thus, the commissioning of the Soyuz gas pipeline stretching from Orenburg to the USSR's western border appreciably strengthened the fuel and energy base of the East European countries, including those which are still lagging behind the highly industrialized states in their level of development. One of the most promising trends here is integration measures in the science and technology sphere. Suffice it to say that in exploring the world ocean the pooling of efforts resulted in a 300-400 percent reduction in scientific research time. Such a pooling of efforts assumes particularly great significance for countries which are overcoming economic backwardness. For they are often simply not able to do a broad range of up-to-date scientific research work, while simultaneously maintaining a high pace of development of the national economy.

Growing attention to these countries' problems is a typical feature of the present stage of socialist economic integration. Thus, in the coordinated plan for multilateral integrated measures which is currently being implemented (it relates to 1981-1985) there is a special section devoted to accelerating the development and improving the efficiency of the national economies of Mongolia, Cuba, and the SRV.

The process of bringing closer and leveling out the standards of economic development is long-term and complex in nature. And during this process, of course, several difficulties are encountered. Despite the obvious successes in economic building, the lag of Mongolia, Cuba, and the SRV behind the industrially high developed countries has not decreased in recent years in terms of a number of indicators. This is particularly true of improving production efficiency and quality -- a problem which was placed comparatively recently on the agenda of those states' economic development. Now they are implementing specific measures to rectify the situation created involving primarily the mobilization of internal reserves and also more effective use of the economic, scientific, and technical assistance received from the CEMA partners. Further deepening of the international socialist division of labor -- the need to accelerate this was mentioned at the 37th CEMA Session in Berlin -- also contains considerable potential in this regard. Life now sets the task of supplementing the coordination of plans with the coordination of economic policy as a whole and of transforming the next two 5-year plans into a period of intensive production, scientific, and technical cooperation. Ways to resolve the major new problems facing the socialist countries at the present stage will be outlined by a summit-level economic conference, which it has already been agreed to hold.

The acceleration of integration processes will without doubt provide a new impetus to the process of bringing closer and leveling out the levels of development of the socialist countries.

CEMA COOPERATION AIDS POLAND'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

LD182005 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1245 GMT 18 Feb 84

[From the 'Community' program presented by Vladimir Nakarayakov, NOVOSTI political observer]

[Excerpt] The countries of the socialist community have entered the New Year confidently. The first statistical reports of 1984 are already revealing dynamic growth in many economic indicators. Cooperation between the socialist countries, both collectively within CEMA and on a bilateral basis, is improving and developing.

Of late, special attention has been focused on the Polish People's Republic which had been experiencing great and serious economic difficulties. These difficulties were exacerbated by the fact that the Washington administration announced discriminatory economic sanctions against Poland. Under pressure from Washington six NATO countries and Japan joined in these sanctions. In spite of the fact that, according to Polish economists, the country lost 12.5 billion dollars because of the sanctions, these forces did not manage to undermine the Polish economy. Last year Poland managed to increase industrial production by 6.7 percent.

The national income increased for the first time in 4 years. A positive balance was achieved in international trade, in particular with the capitalist countries. A decision adopted by the session of the Polish Sejm, which has just ended in Warsaw, stresses the special importance of strengthening fraternal relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and all-round cooperation within the Warsaw Pact and CEMA.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, in his speech at the extraordinary plenum of the Central Committee Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, declared: In addressing the fraternal countries we state -- the Soviet Union will continue to be your reliable friend and loyal ally. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries were such a friend of the Polish People's Republic at a difficult time. Here one is speaking not just about additional supplies of raw materials and commodities and the granting of credits. New forms of cooperation were also found. One of these is assistance in completing the construction of industrial enterprises in the Polish People's Republic. The Soviet Union undertook to assist in completing the construction of 10 enterprises, Hungary 15, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria 7 each, and Romania 5.

Protocols on trade turnover between the socialist countries have been signed in the recent period. And once again we note that there is to be a significant increase in international trade between the socialist states. In addition to traditional goods the agreements cover high-quality new articles which have recently been brought into production. The protocols which have been signed include a foreign trade protocol between the Soviet Union and the Polish People's Republic.

Our correspondent in Warsaw, Yuriy Ulyanov, has interviewed Tadeusz Nestorowicz, foreign trade minister of the Polish People's Republic on this.

[Begin Ulyanov recording] The foreign trade minister, Tadeusz Nestorowicz, has received us on his first working day since his return from Moscow. Polish papers are commenting widely on the foreign trade protocol between our countries, stressing that fraternal cooperation with the Soviet Union has a steady character and serves as a solid foundation for the economy of the Polish People's Republic. How do you assess this document? What are the fundamental directions of foreign trade between our countries in 1984? [end Ulyanov recording]

[Begin Nestorowicz recording] First of all I would like to note the substantial growth of goods turnover between our countries in 1984. Polish deliveries to the Soviet Union will go up by 14 percent in comparison with last year. Soviet exports to Poland will go up by 7 percent. The total volume of mutual deliveries of goods will amount to 10,700 million rubles. In the conditions of the economic sanctions imposed by capitalist countries with regard to Poland and also because of the instability of Western markets, cooperation between the Polish People's Republic and the powerful Soviet economy which is constantly developing represents a reliable basis for settling urgent socioeconomic programs in our country. Mutual deliveries of industrial goods are going up in 1984. Poland, for instance, will be delivering to the Soviet Union ships, construction equipment, metal-cutting machine tools, technological lines, mining machinery, various equipment. We shall buy from the Soviet Union complete equipment for certain industries, a whole range or various tractors and a large quantity of metal-cutting machine-tools. I think that the new protocol on goods turnover and payments for 1984 illustrates in a way how the Soviet Union helps Poland to solve the difficult economic problems it faces. [end Nestorowicz recording]

[Begin Ulyanov recording] Poland continues to have quite a few problems. The Soviet Union is helping Poland not just by the supply of raw materials and commodities but also by the purchase of finished Polish products. Here is one typical example. Engineering products make up over 60 percent of Polish exports to the USSR. [end Ulyanov recording]

USSR COOPERATION WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES NOTED

LD181622 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Viktor Olenichev commentary]

[Text] At the special full-scale meeting of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee held on 13 February, it was stated that the party of Soviet Communists and the Soviet state want to strengthen cooperation with the socialist countries. Now comments by Viktor Olenichev:

Past and recent history of the world offer many examples of how a major capitalist state uses relations with its partners to its own ends. Relations between the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are of a different nature. They are based on the principles of proletarian internationalism. That means total equality in relations and comradely assistance, mutual aid and sincere interest in each other's affairs. The Soviet Union understands the concerns of other socialist countries. The people in these countries know that they can depend on tangible assistance at any time. Such support has been given recently to Poland and accepted with gratitude. Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski recently said in parliament that the Polish people will never forget that it is the Soviet Union that has been giving assistance and support during the past difficult years. It is common knowledge how the Soviet people have been in solidarity with the Cuban people in courageously opposing the hostile schemes of American imperialism. This was reiterated on 15 February when General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko met in Moscow with Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

The results of cooperation between the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in all spheres are tangible. This is true, for instance, of the economy. United efforts in the economy helped accelerate scientific and technological progress and raising living standards, and as a result, in the seventies the national income of the socialist countries in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance increased by 66 percent and industrial output by 84 percent. That is nearly twice as much in the industrially developed capitalist countries.

As General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko said in the full-scale meeting of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, the Soviet Union will continue as before to be a reliable friend and faithful ally. These words, evidence of a consistent policy, are welcomed by the people of the socialist countries.

For instance, the Politburo of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party's Central Committee has given a high appraisal of the Soviet Communist Party's political course. It confirmed its desire to strengthen Hungarian-Soviet relations in all fields, Hungary Hungary's coopeation with the Soviet Union and other members of the Warsaw Treaty, in order to ease international tensions and carrying out a policy of detente. The socialist countries are adamantly against solving international problems by force. All their thoughts are on saving humanity from a nuclear catastrophe. They realize that this largely depends on how active, determined and united their efforts are on the world scene. The Soviet Union and its allies call for agreements on large-scale confidence-building measures. This would greatly facilitate a pledge by all nuclear powers not to be first to use nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union already made that commitment a year and a half ago. An international agreement not to use armed force in general would also be fundamentally important in averting the threat of nuclear war. The countries in the Warsaw Treaty Organization made that proposal last year to NATO members. These and other initiatives made by the socialist countries are dictated by their concern for the future of the world. They pave the way to a world without wars, and this is the ideal that the Soviet Union and its allies are striving towards.

SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS MEET IN HANOI

LD221334 Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Hanoi February 22 TASS -- A regular consultative meeting of the heads of the parliamentary groups of socialist countries opened here today. Taking part in it are representatives of Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, the KDPR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

The participants in the meeting honoured the memory of Yuriy Andropov by a minute of silence.

The belligerent policy of American imperialism and reaction is the cause of the present serious aggravation of the international situation, it was stressed at the opening of the meeting by the chairman of the SRV's parliamentary group Phan Anh. Of special importance in these conditions are the principled foreign policy course of the USSR and the other socialist states and also the constructive initiatives set forth by them. The activity of socialist countries in international organisations, including in the Interparliamentary Union, makes a weighty contribution to the struggle against the dangerous plans of imperialism, for ending the arms race, for disarmament and for ensuring lasting peace and the security of peoples.

The constant striving for peace, mutual assistance and coopeation is characteristic of the peoples of socialist countries first of all, the Vietnamese representative noted. He expressed profound gratitude to the peoples, parliaments and governments of socialist countries for the all-round assistance to and support of the SRV in the struggle for freedom and independence, in the building of socialism and the defence of the homeland.

The participants in the meeting will exchange experience of work of the parliaments of socialist countries, discuss questions of preparations for the forthcoming conference of the Interparliamentary Union, of coordinating the joint struggle for the strengthening of peace, international security and cooperation.

EAST-WEST RELATIONS IN POST-ANDROPOV ERA

PM221212 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 84 pp 9, 14

[Article by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA political observer Fedor Burlatskiy: "Continuity, Vigor, and a Creative Approach"]

[Text] The death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, outstanding figure of the CPSU and Soviet state and passionate champion of world peace, caused a broad wave of sadness and sympathy to sweep the international community. Yu.V. Andropov did a great deal to strengthen our country's international positions and improve its defense capability and the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces. His thoughts and practical actions were concentrated on preserving peace and protecting mankind from the threat of nuclear catastrophe. The leaders of the overwhelming majority of world states, party and public figures, writers, scientists and journalists, and ordinary people all over the world paid tribute to the memory of Yu.V. Andropov. This demonstrated the profound respect for the great Soviet power -- bulwark of peace and progress for all present-day mankind.

The speeches by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade K.U. Cherenenko at the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and mourning meeting and his conversations with the heads of the foreign delegations visiting Moscow attracted universal attention. Foreign newspapers front-paged extracts from the speeches and there were numerous commentaries in the news media.

The materials of the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee held on 13 February 1984 contain a perfectly clear response to questions on the prospects of the CPSU's domestic and foreign policy. The response is continuity, vigor, and a creative approach to policy.

In its commentaries after the Soviet leaders' meetings with the heads of foreign delegations in Moscow, LE MONDE points to the "optimism of the Western countries' leaders regarding an improvement in the international climate." The meetings, the article notes, have made it possible to build up a picture of the direction Soviet foreign policy is going to take. "Most of the Western countries' leaders received by the new CPSU Central Committee general secretary talked about the possibility of improving relations between East and West," LE MONDE notes.

Such possibilities really do exist. It is a question of the Western countries' leaders showing that they are really ready to exploit these possibilities.

In his speech at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade K.U. Chernenko stressed that our active foreign policy is geared to delivering from the threat of a nuclear world war. This Leninist peace policy, whose basic traits at the present historical stage were determined by recent CPSU congresses, accords with the fundamental interests of the Soviet people and essentially of the other peoples of the world. "Even in today's extremely tense international situation we can clearly state that the Soviet Union will continue its policy of peace, lasting and just peace for all the peoples, big and small," Comrade K.U. Chernenko said.

The strengthening of cohesion and cooperation with all the socialist community countries and the intensification of the socialist countries' influence on world politics as a whole are a very important sphere of Soviet foreign policy. Addressing the fraternal socialist countries, Comrade K.U. Chernenko said: "In the shape of the Soviet Union you will continue to have a reliable friend and loyal ally."

Together with the other socialist countries, the Soviet state consistently defends the just cause of the peoples who have cast off the yoke of colonial dependence and are repulsing attacks by the aggressive forces of imperialism.

The world is going through a difficult and tense period. And the reason for this is that some Western leaders are still unaware of or will not accept the rigid imperative of our age: Only peaceful coexistence, only peaceful cooperation between states on all continents, only a peaceful solution of all international disputes through serious, equal, and constructive negotiations -- only in this way can a peaceful future and progress for mankind be guaranteed. In an age of nuclear weapons and extremely accurate missiles the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence is the sole reliable basis for averting a military catastrophe.

In recent years the Soviet Union has put forward an extensive and concrete program aimed at strengthening peace and international security. It includes the proposal addressed to all the nuclear powers on pledging not to be first to use nuclear weapons and the proposal that the NATO countries and Warsaw Pact members agree not to use military force against one another; the proposal on preventing an arms race in space; measures to practically resolve questions of reducing armed forces and armaments in Central Europe; and, finally, a simple and effective proposal -- to freeze nuclear armaments as the first step on the way to limiting the nuclear arms race.

"We also confirm our readiness for talks," Comrade K.U. Chernenko stressed, "but for honest talks, on the basis of equality and identical security." It is now up to the leaders of the Western countries and above all the United States. If they display the political will and a sensible and constructive approach, taking into account the security interests of both sides, international relations will be able to take a normal course and it will be possible to lessen the threat of nuclear war through common efforts. But are they prepared to display such a will and a sensible approach?

In his 16 January speech on Soviet-American relations President Ronald Reagan called for a more constructive and broad dialogue between the USSR and the United States. In his telegram on the occasion of Yu.V. Andropov's death he noted again: We want true cooperation with the Soviet Union to make the world a better and more peaceful place for all mankind.

The change in the tone of President R. Reagan's pronouncements about the USSR is in itself symptomatic. But what does it imply?

Assessing the results of U.S. Vice President G. Bush's trip to Moscow and his meeting with CPSU Central Committee General Secretary K.U. Chernenko, President R. Reagan said that both he and the vice president believe that the new Soviet leadership will examine the possibility of a more constructive dialogue with the United States. But this wish should be addressed primarily to the U.S. leaders themselves. At the moment, aside from a slight change in the tone of the political rhetoric, they have not taken a single practical step and have not made a single practical proposal aimed at actually improving Soviet-American relations. After all, it is not so much the tone as the actual content that counts in politics.

Everyone knows that foreign policy is one of the chief objects of the struggle in the incipient campaign connected with the election of the new U.S. President. Suffice it to say that 80 percent of Americans polled, including those who take a negative view of our country, are in favor of restoring normal relations between the USSR and the United States and constructive talks on limiting the arms race, easing tension, and strengthening the peoples' security.

Will this mood be reflected in the White House's practical policy?

The United States has perpetrated at least three major acts capable of breaching the very foundations of peaceful coexistence. First, it embarked on the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. Second, it started a new round of arms modernization spurred on by the unprecedented growth of the U.S. military budget. Third, it took steps to militarize space in accordance with the so-called "star wars" program. The U.S. "strongarm" military policy in various parts of the world -- Grenada, Central America, and Lebanon -- is closely bound up with this.

Is the White House thinking about altering this political line?

Sensible people -- and their numbers are growing even in the West's political elite -- are increasingly acknowledging that peaceful coexistence is based on the principle of balance of forces, military parity, equality, and identical security. That is why there is mounting criticism of the U.S. Administration's policy which is aimed at demolishing the balance of forces and achieving military superiority. The public demands that the White House adopt a new approach to questions of limitating the arms race.

The Spanish paper EL PAIS subjects to minute criticism the White House's entire policy on the question of so-called Euromissiles. The article contains the important idea that in addition to the problem of quantitative and qualitative balance "it is necessary also to examine the actual concept of threat, that is, the danger of being the victim of an attack and the ability to effectively withstand it." "Cruise and Pershing II missiles are not a response to SS-20 missiles as the latter do not in fact assume the emergence of a new threat," the article says. "The SS-20 missiles are clearly being deployed in connection with the modernization of the old SS-4 and SS-5 missiles on the basis of existing technology... But the deployment of missiles in forward European positions assumes the possibility of a limited nuclear war in Europe since Soviet territory is now directly threatened whereas U.S. territory is not."

Sound judgment! Unfortunately, so far it has been totally rejected by the U.S. leadership. The aforementioned article also touches on the problem of taking the French and British nuclear forces into account. It says: "In the mid-nineties, when they have completed their programs for modernizing the armed forces, France and the United Kingdom will have around 1,050 nuclear warheads capable of reaching Soviet territory. Can one continue to pretend that they do not exist?"

A fair question. So far the world public has not received an intelligible reply to this question either from the United States or from the other NATO countries. Is it not time the U.S. Administration answered these questions if it really wants to improve Soviet-American relations and the international climate as a whole? It would be equally significant if the White House took the necessary steps to prevent the new and very dangerous threat connected with the militarization of space. Last March President Reagan urged U.S. scientists to "give us the means to make nuclear weapons ineffective and obsolete." Four days later the U.S. defense secretary said that he saw no obstacle to having "absolutely reliable and perfect" defenses not only against ballistic missiles but also against cruise missiles and nuclear weapons in general. The United States has effectively started financing research, development, and testing of systems capable of waging "space wars."

The Soviet Union is pressing for a ban on the deployment of all weapons in space since the presence of weapons there is bound to dramatically increase the likelihood of war. Laser and other space weapons can upset the strategic military balance, which may make nuclear conflict inevitable.

This assessment is now accepted by major politicians, scientists, and military men in the West. The West German magazine DER SPIEGEL carried an interview on 9 January with the U.S. military specialist Dr Richard Garwin on this issue. Here is what he said: "Let's suppose that the Soviet Union or the United States is in a position to create totally effective defenses against ballistic missiles. In that case the other side would not be able to permit the deployment of such a system and would have to attack before the system had been fully established and was effective. As soon as one side believes that a flawless defense is possible, the threat of the total disarmament of the enemy emerges and the enemy will naturally be forced to deliver a retaliatory strike; this means that in what is essentially a conflict-free time war suddenly breaks out -- a preemptive war."

There is no disputing these ideas. It is yet another exceedingly important sphere in which the U.S. Administration could display a practical desire for peace. To return fully to the positions that were achieved with respect to ABM systems and prevent the militarization of space -- these truly are strategic tasks in keeping with the interests of the security of the United States and the USSR, the East and the West.

The Soviet Union has put forward important and large-scale proposals on confidence-building measures at the international conference in Stockholm. Particularly significant among them are pledges by all the nuclear powers not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and an international accord on not using armed force at all. A constructive approach to these proposals on the West's part would also contribute to the normalization of the international situation.

The Soviet Union, as a great socialist power, is fully aware of its responsibility to the peoples for preserving and strengthening peace, Comrade K.U. Chernenko said. The CPSU Central Committee February Plenum confirmed anew the unshakable and stable nature of the Leninist peace policy, a policy geared to delivering mankind from the threat of a nuclear world war.

STOCKHOLM MEETING DEBATES MILITARY FORCE NONUSE

LD221627 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Stockholm February 22 TASS -- Far-reaching proposals for adopting by the nuclear powers which are taking part in the Stockholm conference of the pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and concluding a treaty on mutual non-use of military force and on maintenance of relations of peace, made by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, serve the task of averting the threat of nuclear war. These proposals, a plenary meeting of the Conference on Confidence-Building Measures, Security and Disarmament in Europe was told today by a member of the Soviet delegation, Boris Ivanov, fully accord with the conference's goals, do not infringe anyone's rights and are beneficial for all. They meet the vital aspirations of the broad sections of the public and are designed to realize the striving of the European peoples for a safer future and mutual trust.

The Soviet representative dwelt further on the proposal advanced by the Warsaw Treaty states in their Prague political declaration on non-increase and substantial reduction of military spending. He said that this year, the United States will spend for military purposes over 300 billion dollars and that other NATO countries are spending enormous sums on armaments too. Urging the conferees to examine closely this proposal, the Soviet representative stressed that reaching an accord at the conference on non-increase and substantial reduction of military spending would be of great importance for curbing the arms race and strengthening confidence, which fully accords with the Stockholm forum's goals.

ARBATOV INTERVIEWED ON PALME, BRANDT COMMISSIONS

AU210946 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 14 Feb 84 p 6

[Interview given by Georgiy Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, to NOVOSTI special correspondent Mikhail Bruk: "Responsibility forthe Fate of Mankind" -- date and place of interview not specified; initial paragraphs are PRAVDA introduction)

[Text] At a time when the master of the White House and representatives of the American Administration are increasingly worried about maintaining the presidential chair and their posts in the upcoming elections in November and spend less time thinking about ways of easing international tension, dealing with the problem of arms race, and solving key security problems in other areas, many Western statesmen are showing growing concern about the fate of mankind.

It was exactly this concern that prompted well-known representatives of diverse political currents and beliefs from various countries to gather in Rome, at a recent joint session of the Independent Commission for Problems of Disarmament and Security (the Palme Commission) and the Commission for Problems of International Development (the Brandt commission).

NOVOSTI special correspondent Mikhail Burk met with the Soviet participant in the meeting, Academician Georgiy Arbatov, director of the Untied States of America and Canada Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, who replied to several questions.

[Bruk] How do you assess the results of the work of the two commissions?

[Arbatov] Inthe Palme Commission, among members who had already met various positions exist on problems of security and disarmament, problems that all members consider relevant and exceedingly important. Their views diverge on who is to be blamed for the tense situation in the world at present, what must be done right now, and where the main danger for mankind lies. We listened to the positions of several people whom we met for the first time at the Sauming negotiations. Many members understood this to be a "moratorium," which in its substance is more narrow than the proposal for freezing nuclear arsenals submitted to the UN General Assembly for assessment.

In spite of this and despite the complicated situation full of unrest, a document calling for discontinuation of the deployment of new nuclear weapons in Europe was approved. The task to save mankind from new escalation of the arms race is so important that it forced every commission member to approach his own position with enormous responsibility.

In an American newspaper, I recently saw an interesting statement of an antiwar organization, which said: "There is only one person in the world today who can save mankind from a nuclear war -- this person is you!" These words very accurately express the idea that no one seriously thinking today about the fate of mankind in general, but also about his own future and about the future of his family and friends, his country, and his society, can escape responsibility. Human conscience forces everyone to participate according to his abilities in this struggle for the future of mankind. After all, it is the existence of civilization on earth that is at stake.

The whole meeting was very representative. Concern for the fate of the world brought to the Italian capital well-known politicians and state and social figures from 25 countries of Europe, Africa, North and Latin America, and Asia. This very fact bears out that people from various continents understand that now it is necessary to act. It goes without saying that talks themselves cannot bring a decisive turnabout in policy. But the very report of the commission, which will be disseminated, is the result of enormous work. It unites, albeit not without sharp edges, various positions; contains compromise solutions that could be found; and attempts to answer very delicate issues.

This resulting document will provide everyone associated in any way with the struggle for disarmament and peace with new impetus for thought.

I regard the work of the two commissions as highly useful because from all these individual details grows forth the strength capable of preventing that which is most horrific and halting mankind's drawing nearer to a nuclear catastrophe.

[Bruk] At sessions of the two commissions, proposals were put forward to involve representatives of China in the work of the two commissions. What is your view on this question?

[Arbatov] At the present sessions of the two commissions, the question of PRC representation was raised once again. This country has already begun to emerge from its isolation, as a consequence of which it had long remained aside from participation in assessing important problems of the present such as those of security and disarmament. It is highly important that China and all other powers that have not yet taken part in our great discussion about problems of security and disarmament begin to participate in this work, and that they do so constructively. The PRC is a power which possesses its own nuclear weapons and it is hardly possible to speak about international security without the participation of all nuclear powers.

LATEST ROUND OF USSR-IAEA TALKS TAKE PLACE

PM171634 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Latest Round"]

[Text] Vienna, 15 Feb -- The latest round of talks between the USSR and the IAEA on the question of putting certain Soviet peaceful nuclear installations -- atomic power stations and research reactors -- under IAEA control was held here 13-15 February.

BALKAN STATES TAKE 'IMPORTANT STEP' ON NFZ

PM220955 Moscow IZVESTIYA In Russian 21 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent G. Shakhunyan dispatch: "Nuclear-Free Zone for the Balkans"]

[Text] Athens -- A conference of Balkan states has ended here. For a week experts and diplomats from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Yugoslavia, and Greece studied problems connected with strengthening cooperation and ensuring security. The main topic on the agenda was the proposal to create a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans, put forward on Greece's initiative.

The final communique, signed by all the Athens meeting participants, stresses that none of the delegations denied the expediency of implementing the idea put forward. The quest for new ways of cooperation proceeded in an atmosphere of constructive dialogue and in a spirit of mutual understanding. An important step forward that indubitably corresponds to the aspirations and vital interests of the region's peoples has been taken.

The conference's results indicate that the Balkan countries share a desire to develop fruitful dialogue aimed at improving the international climate not only in the region but also in the world as a whole.

It is characteristic that attempts to rid the Balkans and other parts of Europe from nuclear weapons encounter frenzied resistance from the United States and NATO, which travel the path of fueling tension and using military force to establish their dominance. During the meeting certain obedient executors of the will of the senior partner in the North Atlantic bloc endeavored to channel its work in the wrong direction and to emasculate the important initiatives aimed at creating a nuclear-free zone in the region.

Representatives of both the socialist and the NATO countries noted that special significance attaches to the present meeting in the current situation, when the siting of new U.S. missiles has begun in Europe, and they stressed that this significance goes far beyond the bounds of a purely regional event. The local progressive and democratic press, commenting on the meeting's results, notes with satisfaction that the Balkan peoples' desire to rid themselves of nuclear weapons and establish economic and scientific cooperation meets with support in the Soviet Union.

UN COMMITTEE ON NONUSE OF FORCE BEGINS WORK

LD220947 Moscow TASS in English 0819 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] New York February 22 TASS -- TASS correspondent V. Vasilets reports:

A session of the special committee on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force in the international relations, the first this year, has opened at the U.N. headquarters. The activities of this U.N. body exasperate the USA and its NATO allies, as the discussions at the committee invariably demonstrate the real essence of the stand of the states on issues of war and peace. On the other hand, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries persistently stress that in the present day extremely tense international situation it is particularly important to provide a legal basis for the principle of non-use of force.

It was precisely on the USSR's initiative that this question was once incorporated into the agenda of the U.N. General Assembly session. The Soviet Union has also proposed that the international community discuss a relevant draft of a world treaty, viewing it as an effective barrier in the way of unleashing aggressive wars.

On the other hand, Washington shows a hostile attitude to the very idea of concluding such a treaty, as this runs counter to the American imperialism's policy of using force for the attainment of its aims. The USA and its allies wish to legalise not the principle of non-use of force, but rather the "big stick" policy. As representatives of many states pointed out at the latest U.N. General Assembly session, the most apparent manifestation of this policy has been the formation of the American interventionist rapid deployment force.

The U.S. delegation at the U.N. even wished to withdraw the question from the agenda completely. Once Washington even refused to attend the special committee sessions. But fearing that this tactics was too frankly demonstrating the fact that the U.S. Administration has no stake in specific measures to consolidate peace, the White House began inventing new gimmicks. Now, for exmaple, the delegations of the United States and of the other Western powers are trying to prove in vain that if a world treaty is to be concluded this will allegedly weaken the U.N. Charter. But these ridiculous "arguments" do not convince anyone. At the 38th General Assembly session the committee was told to carry on its activities in order to draft a world treaty on non-use of force in international relations. Only several states, chiefly the NATO member countries and such of their allies as Israel and Japan voted against that decision.

NATO 'HILEX-84' EXERCISES 'FUTURISTIC GIBBERISH'

LD202358 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2110 GMT 20 Feb 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Aleksandr Korshunov]

[Text] The Soviet Union invades a Middle East country. the West takes military steps against the USSR. This futuristic gibberish lay at the basis of a big military and political exercise of the NATO countries that has started in Brussels under the name "Hilex-84". AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE reports that its background is a hypothetical Soviet aggression against Iran; the adoption of countermeasures is being hastily coordinated in the capitals of West European countries belonging to the North Atlantic bloc. Although Western agencies stress that no military hardware or equipment are being used in these exercises, their provocative character is not changed by this. "Hilex-84" is a rehearsal of how the West's military-political mechanism will act inthe event of large-scale NATO military action. The holding of these exercises has coincided with another measure in the framework of the North Atlantic bloc -- a secret conference of representatives of the United States and NATO countries on the creation of a space anti-missile system. The UP agency reports this, quoting the British paper SUNDAY TIMES interview of a member of the American delegation who admitted that the aim of the consultations was to work out a single concept for creating space anti-missile weaponry. Let us recall that plans for its creation became a reality following the speech by the U.S. President last year, which became known as the star wars plan and which envisages moving the arms race into space. It is remarkable that, in conditions of an upsurge of the anti-war movement and the stormy displeasure of the West Europeans at the deployment of new American first strike weapons in their countries, news about the secret meeting did not appear on the pages of the bourgeois papers except for the sensation-(?seeking) SUNDAY TIMES. The rest prefer to maintain silence.

REAGAN DEFENDS POLICY AT 22 FEB PRESS CONFERENCE

LD230839 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The United States does not intend to change its Middle East policy or to review its stand on Lebanon. This has been stated by President Reagan at a news conference on Wednesday. He tried to deny the assertions that America's mission in Lebanon has failed. He said the withdrawal of the Marines to the American warships does not mean we are bugging out. We are just going into a little more defensive position. And he added that if need by they will return to Beirut.

In connection with the worsening of the situation in the Persian Gulf, the President said that if necessary the United States will protect its interests there with all means.

U.S. READINESS TO NEGOTIATE 'PROPAGANDA POLY'

LD221053 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 22 Feb 84

["Propaganda Ploy" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Speaking at Johns Hopkins University in New York, Paul Nitze, the former leader of the U.S. delegation to the nuclear arms limitation talks in Europe, said that the United States was prepared to return to the negotiating table within 24 hours whereas the USSR did not display such readiness. Similar claims were made in the statement of the recent meeting of NATO's Special Consultative Group in Brussels. In this way a propaganda trick is being pulled by certain U.S. circles: At first Washington deliberately stymied the Geneva talks by going ahead with the deployment of first-strike weapons in Western Europe whereas now that these weapons are being actually installed, dramatically escalating tension in Europe, it argues that it is not at all to blame for the deterioration of the political climate and that it is even ready to resume talks, whereas the position of the other side is the only impediment to such resumption...

The political dishonesty of the authors of that "argument" is particularly obvious if we take a closer look at the character of the U.S. assertion that it is "ready to resume the talks." What is there to talk about? The Geneva talks concerned, as everyone knows, the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe. The deployment of U.S. Pershing-2's and cruises in Western Europe means not a limitation but, conversely, the escalation of such armaments, that is, a quite opposite process, basically contradicting the very idea of the talks and subverting their foundations. Isn't it evident that to continue the nuclear arms limitation talks at a time when the United States is building up its nuclear armaments in Europe would mean merely to cover up Washington's militarist actions aimed at subverting European and international security?

NATO would have not been true to itself if it hadn't used the meeting of its consultative group to try anew to scare the West Europeans with the mythical "Soviet threat." But who are they going to influence with that propaganda? The Soviet Union has stressed on more than one occasion that it does not want military superiority nor is going to dictate to others.

However, our country will not allow the existing military parity to be upset either. All the measures taken by the Soviet Union in response are adequate to the threat posed by the deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles. So the NATO gentlemen who are trying to present themselves as advocates of the bridling of the arms race and all but champions of European security are hard put to sell their stories...

European security can be strengthened not by the attempts to camouflage with propaganda ploys Washington's dangerous plans nor, moreover, by the fulfilment of those plans, aimed at turning Western Europe into a hostage to the policies pursued by others. Europe's security interests would be promoted not by the cult of confrontation and strength, emphasized so stubbornly by Washington, but by a course of seeking agreements and by the real readiness of the USA and NATO to return to the situation which existed before the deployment of Pershings and cruise missiles. If the United States displayed such readiness, the USSR would be prepared to do so as well. Then the Soviet Union's earlier proposals on the limitation and reduction of nuclear armaments in Europe would again be valid.

The Soviet Union is convinced that it is possible to discuss seriously and to resolve international problems, however acute and complex they may be. The only thing needed is that the other side shows proper responsibility. Facts indicate, however, that Washington and NATO are still far from displaying a responsible approach to such an acute and important question as the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe...

USSR EXPELS U.S. CITIZENS FOR 'PRO-ZIONIST' ACTS

LD221553 Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Leningrad February 22 TASS -- U.S. citizens Meir Shweiger and Michel Strick have been expelled from the USSR for actions incompatible with the status of tourists. They left the country today before time by the Leningrad-Helsinki train.

When the 34-year-old tourists from New York entered the USSR, they violated customs rules and were warned by representatives of the authorities that it was necessary to observe certain norms of conduct for foreigners in the country they came to. But, ignoring that and subsequent warnings of the authorities, Meir Shweiger and Michel Strick tried to conduct activities of a pro-Zionist character.

The incident with American tourists is bound to serve as a lesson to those who on coming to the USSR as guests intend to undertake functions of executors of assignments of foreign Zionist centres.

ZAYCHENKO RECEIVES DPRK LETTER ON REUNIFICATION

SK230103 Moscow in Korean to Korea 1330 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] On 22 February, Comrade Zaychenko, vice chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, met Comrade Yi Tu-yong, DPRK charge d'affaires ad interim. Charge d'Affaires ad Interim Yi Tu-yong conveyed the letter of appeal of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly on providing a factor for guaranteeing peace in Korea and on expediting the fatherland's independent and peaceful reunification.

DPRK OFFICIAL DEMANDS END TO 'TEAM SPIRIT-84'

LD221809 Moscow TASS in English 1519 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Pyongyang February 22 TASS -- The chief delegate of the Korean People's Democratic Republic to a meeting of the military commission on the truce in Korea has demanded an immediate end to American-South Korean joint maneuvers codenamed "Team Spirit-84," the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reported. The war games staged by Washington and Seoul have considerably aggravated the already tense situation in the region and are a most flagrant violation of the agreement on the truce in Korea.

The news agency said that large contingents of American troops, B-52 strategic bombers, other nuclear-capable aircraft and up-to-date combat equipment are being brought to the area of the exercises from U.S. military bases in Hawaii, the island of Guam, Japan and the Philippines. The demonstration of force that will be the largest in scale in the history of these maneuvers is called upon in effect to test the readiness of U.S. and South Korean Armed Forces to deal a massive blow to the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

The maneuvers "Team Spirit-84," said NODONG SINMUN, newspaper of the Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea, are a crude military provocation and a cynical challenge to the progressive public opinion of the world. They are further evidence of the aggressive and adventurist nature of the Reagan administration's policy. Washington is thereby trying to prevent a peaceful reunification of Korea and establish control over other Asian states.

The main condition of resolving the Korean question is the withdrawal of all American troops from the south of the Korean Peninsula. Tension can be defused and stability achieved in the region only by way of dialogue and peacful talks, NODONG SINMUN said.

JAPAN'S 'DRASTIC MILITARISTIC TILT' TOWARD U.S.

LD221241 Moscow TASS in English 1055 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Tokyo February 22 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Anichkin writes:

The Japanese conservative government stubbornly upholds the adventuristic idea of "control over sea lanes" within a radius of a thousand miles from the country's shores. When replying in parliament to a question by a member of the opposition Socialist Party, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone declared that he viewed this task as "the essence and aim of the national defence policy."

The new statement by the head of the Japanese Government is viewed here as added evidence of the drastic militaristic tilt in the policy of Tokyo which is linked with Washington by a military and political alliance. The United States intends to make Japan shoulder the burden of most of its police functions in the north-western Pacific. With this aim the United States supplies the Japanese Armed Forces with new ships and submarines and "R-3c" anti-submarine planes.

In the state buget for the 1984 fiscal year the conservatives intend to increase military allocations by 6.55 per cent while government purchases of new military hardware will grow by 22 per cent.

The Japanese Armed Forces are training in the conduct of joint combat operations together with the United States Navy and aviation in the course of numerous military exercises. This year "R-3c" and "R-2j" anti-submarine planes of the Japanese Air Force will take part for the first time in the "Rimpac" multinational naval exercises in the Hawaii area. The actions of the armed forces of both countries in the event of "contingencies" are drawn up by military specialists in the course of the special Japanese-American consultations "on the protection of sea lanes."

Military cooperation in the question of control over international sea lanes is a component part of the overall strengthening of the military and political alliance of the two countries which Prime Minister Nakasone described in parliament on Tuesday as an "exceptional alliance". Japan has undertaken to "block international straits" in the Sea of Japan and is preparing to play host on its territory to American nuclear-capable "F-16" fighter-bombers. As to the Japanese Isles, the prime minister has long likened them to an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" of the United States.

Nakasone's present statement shows, in the opinion of observers, that the conservatives have learnt nothing from their defeat at the recent parliamentary elections when the electorate, worried by the government's militaristic course, deprived the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party even of a simple majority in parliament.

MONGOLIA'S BATMONH MARKS SOVIET ARMY, NAVY DAY

LD221412 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] In connection with the 66th founding anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, a ceremony of wreath laying at the monument to Vladimir Ilich Lenin and at the monument to Soviet warriors at the (Zaitsan Hill) took place in the Mongolian capital today. Batmonh, member of the MPRP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers, and other leaders of Mongolian party and government took part in the solemn ceremony.

BRIEFS

MONGOLIAN ENVOY DECORATED -- The USSR Supreme Soviet presidium has awarded the order of friendship among peoples to Bat-Ochiryn Gotob, Mongolia's ambassador to the USSR. The award marks his active work to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Mongolia. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Feb 84 LD]

DRA'S KARMAL PRAISES 'WARM' CHERNENKO MEETING

PM221007 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Immutable Course"]

[Text] Kabul, 20 Feb -- A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo has been held here at which B. Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, delivered a report on his trip to Moscow to attend Yu.V. Andropov's funeral and on his meeting with Soviet leaders. With the election of K.U. Chernenko, an outstanding figure of the Lenin type in the Communist Party and the Soviet state, to the lofty post of general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the CPSU is continuing to advance consistently along the path of implementing Lenin's principles of peace and socialism" he stated. B. Karmal expressed satisfaction with the results of his meeting with Comrade K.U. Chernenko, which proceeded in a warm and friendly atmosphere and during which opinions were exchanged on fundamental questions of Soviet-Afghan relations and on the situation around Afghanistan.

Referring to the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary Plenum and Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech at it, B. Karmal stressed that the CPSU is determined to continue its international Leninist foreign policy. The USSR adheres unshakably to its positions of preserving and strengthening peace and international security. While it has no desire to achieve military supremacy, it will at the same time allow no one to disrupt the military equilibrium which prevails in the world. As K.U. Chernenko's speech reaffirmed, the foreign policy of the land of the Soviets is immutable, B. Karmal continued. One of its principles is solidarity with the peoples forced to repel aggressive imperialist forces' attacks. "We in Afghanistan are well aware of this," the DRA leader pointed out. "U.S. imperialism and regional reaction are continuing their undeclared war against our country. They are attempting to turn back the wheel of history, but the progressive revolutionary transformations in our country are irreversible. We are deeply grateful to the Soviet Union for its international assistance."

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo noted the great significance of the results of the trip and of the meeting between K.U. Chernenko and B. Karmal in Moscow and fully approved them.

BAKHTAR HITS CIA'S 'SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE' IN DRA

LD221950 Moscow TASS in English 1748 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul February 22 TASS -- The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is stepping up its subversion against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, says a BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY comment. To achieve its ends, the CIA relies on the so-called organisation of "The Soldiers of Fortune" which openly engages in recruiting mercenaries inside the USA. The news agency says that a special fund has been set up for the so-called "freedom fighters". The establishment of this fund indicates direct support by the United States for the bandits entrenched in Pakistan who are waging subversion and terrorist activities against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The setting up of the anti-Afghan fund indicates Washington's growing interference in the internal affairs of independent Afghanistan and betrays its desire to overthrow the country's lawful government through the use of force. Each year the Central Intelligence Agency spends more than 100 million dollars in arms and fighting gear shipped to Afghan counter-revolutionaries. Special U.S. services select mercenaries and send them to Pakistan to give military training to the Dushmans to be infiltrated into Afghan territory, BAKHTAR says.

CSSR'S DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ON CHERNENKO SPEECH

LD202158 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 20 Feb 84

[From the Vremya Newscast; V. Korzin video report from Prague]

[Text] Results of the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and of Comrade Chernenko's speech at the plenum continue to be commented upon abroad with emphasis on the continuity of CPSU's policies which correspond to aspirations and interests of the whole of mankind.

[Begin video report] [Korzin] The speech by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered at the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, was received here with particular understanding. Papers publish the reaction which emphasizes the consistency of the Soviet Union's foreign policy course aimed at preserving peace and protecting socialist gains. Our country's clear and precise position, confirmed by the plenum decisions yet again, inspires confidence in tomorrow and in the unshakability of the monolithic unity of socialist community.

[S. Murin, deputy foreign minister of CSSR in Czech with superimposed translation] We would particularly wish to single out two aspects in the speech by Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the part of the speech that deals with foreign policy. Above all, it is the Soviet Union's desire, an invariable and sincere desire, confirmed yet again to preserve peace throughout the world.

And the other question, a key one, you could say: It is the question of strengthening the unity and cohesion of the socialist community, the necessity for an even greater coordination of our activities in the area of international relations. It is precisely this, that constitutes a guarantee of success, a guarantee of implementing those grand ideas on which the peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union and of the entire socialist community is based. [end video recording]

CSSR'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER ON DEPLOYMENT

LD181505 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Prague February 18 TASS -- Bohuslav Chnoupek, foreign affairs minister of Czechoslovakia, said addressing a meeting with heads of consultates in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, on Friday that Czechoslovakia is ready to support all steps aimed at strengthening confidence-building measures and security if these measures correspond to the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act and will effectively contribute to a real lessening of military confrontation in Europe, the CTK news agency reported.

The minister pointed out that the military and political tension has been enhanced above all by the deployment of new American nuclear missiles in Western Europe, and said that the reply measures of the Warsaw Treaty member states will be kept strictly within the limits which are dictated by the NATO countries' actions. In this connection Bohuslav Chnoupek called the attention of the meeting participants to the proposal to conclude a treaty on the mutual non-use of military force and maintenance of relations of peace between the member states of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, a proposal which is contained in the Prague Political Declaration.

CSSR AMBASSADOR ON ANNIVERSARY TIES WITH USSR

LD192136 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0630 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] In the CSSR Embassy in Moscow a press conference has taken place devoted to the 36th anniversary of the February victory of the Czechoslovak working people over reaction. Our correspondent Vladimir Savchenko reports.

This date, 25 February, is marked by the Czechoslovak people as a great national festive day. A little bit of history. February 1948 was the month when the main question was being decided for the country: Will Czechoslovakia be Communist or not? The Communist Party and the people in that complex period were coming forward for the deepening of the process of nationalization of industry, for socialist changes in the economy and in agriculture. But in the government of the republic a group of reactionary ministers was strong who were striving to bring Czechoslovakia back to the times of the supremacy of the bourgeoisie.

In autumn of 1947 the reactionary forces made an attempt to impose their will on the working people of Slovakia, and in February 1948 they provoked a government crisis. In those days Klement Gottwald called upon the working class and all working people to repulse the intrigues of the bourgeoisie. Stormy meetings and manifestations of workers took place throughout the country. As a result, a new government was formed which announced a course directed at the building of socialism.

The February victory of the working people also became an important milestone in the cause of strengthening fraternal friendship between the peoples of Czechoslovakia and the USSR: This was stressed in his speech at a press conference by Cestmir Lovetinsky, the CSSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR. In particular, he said:

[Begin Lovetinsky recording in Czech fading into translation] The victorious February is one of the most glorious events in the history of Czechoslovakia. The working people of the republic, in striking a decisive blow against the attempts by reactionary forces to bring the country back to the capitalist order, came out unanimously in favour of socialism, of a solid political and military union with the USSR. The liberating mission of the Soviet Army which saved our country from the fascist enslavement and the selfless help by the USSR during the period of the rebuilding of our national economy have become a solid foundation for a further deepening of our friendship and cooperation. During 36 years of the peoples' rule Czechoslovakia has achieved great successes in its economy and culture and has become a firm link in the community of socialist countries. Together with the USSR we come out for peace and against attempts to violate the existing military balance. We actively support the decisions of the February plenum of the CPSU Central Committee which have once again confirmed the firm and realistic position of the USSR on the cardinal problems of today. [end recording]

USSR TRADE OFFICIAL ON EXCHANGES WITH HUNGARY

LD161648 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] This year the Soviet Union will deliver the same quantitites of raw materials and fuel to our country as previously. Viktor Ocheretin, the Soviet Union's trade representative in Hungary reported on this at his press briefing today. He also said that although the costs of the exploitation of crude oil and natural gas have increased, these raw materials will be supplied more cheaply than world market prices.

The Soviet Union will also increase the range of household appliances exported to our country. However, it is unable to deliver as many automobiles as required.

The USSR wishes to purchase far more shoes and knitwear from Hungary than up to now. For this reason, ways in which the exchange of these products can be increased should be examined, the Soviet Union's trade representative in Budapest said.

SOVIET-HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC TIES HIGHLIGHTED

PM201101 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Gerasimov dispatch: "Realizing Great Potential. Soviet-Hungarian Cooperation Today"]

[Excerpts] Budapest -- The 26th anniversary of the Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance Treaty between the USSR and Hungary is celebrated on 18 February. Concluded in 1948, soon after the end of the war, this historic document played an important role in the development of new, truly fraternal relations between the Soviet Union and Hungary. The new Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Treaty signed in 1967 boosted the further development of fruitful Soviet-Hungarian cooperation, which fully accords with the fraternal peoples' fundamental interests.

Hungarian-Soviet cooperation in light industry has long traditions and sound foundations. The first shops entirely equipped with Soviet spinning looms appeared in Szeged and Kaposvar back in the early fifties. Since then deliveries of equipment from the USSR for Hungarian textile, furniture, and paper factories, as well as printing works (in Hungary these also count as light industry), have been an important factor in developing one of the chief sectors of the republic's industry.

The Soviet Union meets 15 percent of Hungarian light industry's needs for raw materials. Imports from the USSR meet almost two-thirds of the demand for cotton and approximately half the demand for flax fiber.

The Soviet Union also supplies 15 million square meters of wood particle board and more than 1 million metric tons of industrial timber for furniture factories every year. Hungary participated in constructing the Ust-Ilim Pulp Plant, and as a result valuable raw material is dispatched to it. Almost half the imported pulp is of Soviet manufacture. Hungary has ceased producing newsprint and obtains it from the USSR, as well as of up to 30,000 metric tons of various grades of cardboard. Under an exchange of a range of products Hungarian factories in turn send to the Soviet Union thin writing paper and paper for book printing. Mutually advantageous specialization will continue to be developed in this sphere.

Soviet customers are well acquainted with consumer goods from the fraternal country. Last year 31 million square meters of textiles, almost R150 million worth of readymade clothes and knitwear, more than 13 million pairs of footwear, small leather goods, and furniture were exported to the USSR. Over the 10-year period from 1970 through 1980 deliveries to the USSR doubled. They will be increased considerably during this 5-year plan.

"We are also seeking to raise output quality," I. Szabo, Hungarian deputy minister of industry, said: "Some 150 Hungarian enterprises are displaying their wares at various shows, oriented toward the tastes and wishes of Soviet customers. For many of them send up to 50 percent of their output to the Soviet Union. Our sewn goods and knitwear factories now update their products twice a year. More expensive, luxury goods at the 'height' of fashion are being offered to Soviet consumers. Regard for the customers' real demand, promptness in fulfilling contracts, questions of output quality and of the product's accordance with modern standards and fashion -- these are keypoints in our cooperation today."

I. Szabo pointed out that there is great potential in direct ties between the two countries' light industry enterprises. Already more than 10 Hungarian factories have agreements on cooperation and the exchange of models and experience with Soviet colleagues.

Andro (Sekey), chief of "staff" of the 1 May [sewn goods] Factory, is once again preparing to go to the Soviet Union: The modernization of two sewn goods factories in Cherkassy and another one in Tbilisi is to be carried out. Other Hungarian enterprises will modernize a furniture factory in Krasnodar.

This is how Hungarian-Soviet cooperation is developing, its new forms are being introduced, progressive methods of organizing production and improving technology are being passed on, and direct ties are being started up.

HUNGARIAN ARMY POLITICAL CHIEF ON STATE OF ARMY

PM201515 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Strengthening Defense Capability"]

[Text] Budapest, 17 Feb -- At the CPSU Central Committee's extraordinary plenum held on 13 February 1984 Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, emphasized that the USSR acts in the international arena together with its reliable allies -- the fraternal socialist community countries -- and that we will continue to have in the Soviet Union a reliable friend and loyal ally, Lieutenant General Ferenc Karpati, deputy defense minister and chief of the Hungarian People's Army Main Political Directorate, told a TASS correspondent. The Warsaw Pact states' foreign policy initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race and preventing nuclear catastrophe, he pointed out, inspire confidence in the rightness of our great cause and in the inevitability of the triumph of reason and of the forces of peace and progress.

Together with the other fraternal countries, Hungary is taking measures to strengthen its defense capability. Thanks to the concern of the MSZMP and the Hungarian Government, the Hungarian People's Army has acquired new arms and modern new hardware. Its personnel have well mastered the available combat means and the tactics of conducting modern combat. I can state with confidence that servicemen of the Hungarian People's Army act skillfully both on the exercises which we hold in our own country and on joint exercises with servicemen of the fraternal socialist countries' armies. In particular, very good results were scored on the joint exercises held recently on CSSR territory.

We maintain combat readiness and combat training at a high level. The Ministry of Defense recently conducted an inspection check of a motorized rifle formation which took one of the first places in socialist competition. The formation received a high assessment from the Hungarian minister of defense and merited the title "Foremost Division." This was a result of the personnel's great labor. Party political work, which is the firm basis for reliably fulfilling the tasks facing the army, plays an important role in achieving such successes.

The 40th anniversary of Hungary's liberation by the Soviet Army will be celebrated next year. We are preparing actively for this portentous date and are widely showing the significance of the historic path traveled by the country and the greatness of the gains of our people and of the peoples of the other socialist countries.

We combine patriotic education on a Marxist-Leninist basis with international education. This work is not of an abstract nature but is built on concrete examples of relations with our friends -- with the Soviet Union, the fraternal socialist countries, and progressive movements throughout the world. The internationalism of Hungarian servicemen is manifested, above all, in readiness to defend peace and in awareness of the need for the close cohesion of the world socialist system and the socialist community countries' armed forces. Soldiers and officers of the Hungarian People's Army are convinced that they have true brothers and friends in arms, together with whom they can reliably defend socialism's gains. This conviction is forged not only in training classrooms but also on joint exercises and in the course of harmonious work with servicemen of the Soviet Army's southern group of forces. Such practice is more convincing than any words.

The 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy is approaching. This is a festival for us too. Therefore, much work is being done in the Hungarian People's Army. We seek to ensure that our soldiers and officers know well the history of the Soviet Armed Forces and understand what significance they have today for the fate of peace. I wish to take this opportunity to convey to Soviet Army and Navy servicemen on behalf of the soldiers, officers, and generals of the Hungarian People's Army a wish for great successes in fulfilling their great historic mission in defense of peace. All progressive mankind sees the USSR Armed Forces as the guarantor of peace, Lt Gen F. Karpati concluded.

BUDAPEST LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

Kadar on USSR Ties, Jubilee

PM211305 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "J. Kadar Speech"]

[Text] Budapest, 17 Feb -- On the occasion of the 39th anniversary of Budapest's liberation a mass rally of working people was held at a communication equipment plant at which a speech was delivered by J. Kadar, first secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee.

Our capital and the entire people, he said, are marking this historic date. The Soviet Army in heroic battles and at the cost of major casualties liberated the Hungarian people from the German Fascist occupation. Our people always remember that. They have respect and gratitude for the USSR, the CPSU, and the Soviet Army and its servicemen. I myself am one of the natives of Budapest who was liberated by the Soviet Army. For me it was a double joy -- both as a citizen and as an underground communist.

As a result of the historic change of fate a new power was born in Hungary -- the workers' power, the people's power. The building of a new socialist society began. Work was done in the country on an immense scale. Budapest rose out of the ruins. A new life began in Hungary.

In the creative labor process the Hungarian people have always felt the help of the Soviet state, the friendship of the Soviet People, and also the friendship and support of the other countries that have embarked on the road of socialist building. The communications equipment plant is also a fine example of fruitful cooperation. Your enterprise's work shows how we can cooperate with the socialist countries and achieve great successes.

We can boldly say that the Hungarian people have worthily exploited the opportunities afforded them by the liberation and that the casualties suffered for our sake by the heroic sons of the Soviet people were not in vain. That is how we think of the road we have traveled, by following which we have not only fashioned our people's socialist unity but have also made Soviet-Hungarian friendship indissoluble.

In Hungary, J. Kadar said, political unity is strong, and the economic foundation is firm and reliable. The resolve to defend our socialist gains and strengthen and augment them is strong in the MSZMP, the Central Committee, the government, and, I am sure, in the masses of workers, peasants, and intelligentsia. And in this too we can count on our friends and allies.

We have recently suffered a great loss -- Yu.V. Andropov, who was a great son of the Soviet people, an outstanding fighter of the international workers movement, and a long-standing good friend of the Hungarian people, has died. We took part in his funeral in Moscow where last respects were paid to him in the presence of representatives from the entire world. The entire Hungarian population also expressed its sorrow and condolences.

In Moscow we met with leaders of the Soviet Union whom we deeply respect. We welcome the CPSU Central Committee's resolve to maintain the Leninist course and to continue to work for the good of the Soviet people and all mankind and for the sake of peace. In Moscow we stated that the Hungarian people are consistently continuing to build socialism as a loyal friend and ally of the great Soviet people.

A meeting was held in Moscow of the leaders of the Warsaw Pact states. The MSZMP and the Hungarian Government support the consistent Soviet foreign policy and the common line that we jointly worked out in January 1983 at the session of the Warsaw Pact states' Political Consultative Committee in Prague and reaffirmed at the June meeting of party leaders and statesmen of the socialist countries in Moscow.

The international situation is currently tense and the threat to peace has grown. We resolutely advocate the perservation of an equilibrium of forces and reject the imperialists' aggressive aspirations aimed at achieving military superiority, since these actions jeopardize the peoples' social gains, their national independence, and the cause of peace.

The Hungarian people, J. Kadar said, are interested in peace and creation. In these interests we are concerned for our security. The CPSU Central Committee stated at its plenum that it will continue its consistent peace-loving policy, and we sincerely and with complete conviction subscribe to that.

In Moscow we greeted Comrade K.U. Chernenko, elected general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat. We wished Soviet Communists and the entire Soviet people great successes so that the USSR may continue to grow stronger and develop in conditions of peace.

We want an atmosphere of peace and cooperation to be established among states with different social systems. We are convinced that life itself will decide the outcome of the battle of social structures in favor of socialism and that there is no need of weapons for this since this question cannot be solved with their help. This line is also our policy. We therefore wholly and fully support the decisions adopted at the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee on 13 February this year.

In conclusion, J. Kadar said, I would like to emphasize that for us the fraternal peoples' cohesion is a motive force and promotes the development of socialism.

We are currently preparing for the 13th MSZMP Congress scheduled to be convened in a year's time. We are also preparing to mark the 40th anniversary of the Hungarian liberation and wish for the Hungarian people to greet this jubilee with new successes in conditions of peace.

Further on Kadar Speech

PM201440 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS Report: "Speech by J. Kadar"]

[Text] Budapest February 17 TASS -- The Hungarian people fully support the Leninist policy of the CPSU Central Committee, its determination to work further for the benefit of the Soviet people, of the entire humankind, for the benefit of peace. A statement to this effect was made by Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee at a mass rally of the workers at the Beloiannisz communication equipment mill in the capital on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the liberation of Budapest from the fascist invaders.

Recently, he said, we greeted Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, who was elected general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the members of the Politburo and secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee. In their person we wished the Soviet Communists, the entire Soviet people fresh signal successes.

A few days ago, a meeting of representatives of the Warsaw Pact member-states was held in Moscow, Janos Kadar pointed out. The Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and the Hungarian Government support the consistent Soviet foreign policy, the common line we jointly charted at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact member-states in Prague in January 1983 and reaffirmed at the June meeting of leading party figures and statesmen of the socialist countries in Moscow.

Janos Kadar expressed concern over the aggravation of the international situation and the growing threat to peace. He reaffirmed Hungary's determination to work for preserving the existing military equilibrium, for talks to reach agreement that would contribute to ensuring the security of all sides at the lowest possible level of weapons. At its extraordinary plenary meeting the CPSU Central Committee declared that it will carry on this policy. It is with full conviction and sincerity that we join in this statement. We will consistently implement this line in our foreign and home policy activities.

At the present time, the speaker said, the working people of the Hungarian capital, the entire Hungarian people are celebrating the red letter date -- the anniversary of liberation of Budapest. Thirty-nine years ago the victoriously advancing Soviet Army liberated in a heroic struggle and at the price of great losses the Hungarian people from the fascist occupation. This enabled them to take Hungary's destiny into their hands. We always remember that and entertain a feeling of respect and gratitude to the Soviet people and its Army, to the Communist Party. [Moscow TASS in English at 1413 GMT on 17 February in a similar report at this point adds: "In building a new socialist society, the Hungarian people have permanently felt the assistance of the Soviet Union and of the other countries, which embarked on the path of socialism."]

Today we can boldly say that the Hungarian people have worthily used the opportunity granted to it, that the sacrifices made for its sake by the heroic sons of the Soviet people were not in vain. As a result of the path traversed by us we have forged not only our people's socialist unity, but made Hungarian-Soviet friendship indestructible, Janos Kadar stressed.

Moscow Leader Greetings

PM201005 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Feb 84 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Congratulations Telegram"]

[Text] V.V. Grishin, first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom, and V.F. Promyslov, chairman of Moscow Gorispolkom, have sent a telegram to Comrade Laszlo Maroti, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Budapest City MSZMP Committee, and Comrade Zoltan Szepvolgyi, chairman of the Budapest City Council Executive Committee, on the 39th anniversary of Budapest's liberation from fascism. The telegram said:

On the 39th anniversary of Budapest's liberation from fascism, please accept cordial congratulations from Moscow Gorkom, Moscow Gorispolkom, and Moscow's working people.

In the past years, thanks to the constant concern and attention of the MSZMP, the selfless work of Budapest's working people, and the multifaceted activity of the city party organization, the Hungarian capital has become the country's major political, economic, and cultural center. We are sincerely gladdened by the successes you have achieved in the comprehensive development of the city and in socialist building.

We express the confidence that the close friendly ties which have taken shape between our capitals and which are based on the unshakable principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, will continue to develop successfully and make a worthy contribution to strengthening the combat alliance between the CPSU and the MSZMP and the unbreakable Soviet-Hungarian friendship.

We wish you, and the Communists and working people of Budapest, further achievements in fulfilling the decisions of the 12th MSZMP Congress, building the developed socialist society, and struggling to attain peace.

USSR-HUNGARY TREATY ANNIVERSARY MARKED IN MOSCOW

LD171959 Moscow in Hungarian 1730 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] In Moscow today, in the House of People's Friendship, a festive session was held in connection with the signing 36 years ago of the Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Treaty between the Soviet Union and the Hungarian People's Republic. Sandor Rajnai, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hungarian Peoples Republic to Moscow, and numerous officials in the Hungarian Embassy took part in the festive session.

SED'S MUECKENBERGER COMMENTS ON CHERNENKO SPEECH

LD182115 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The mass media continue to devote constant attention to the results of the CPSU Central Committee plenum, to the speeches of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the plenum and the funeral meeting on Red Square, to the talks of the Soviet leader with foreign leaders who were in Moscow.

Erich Mueckenberger, president of the German-Soviet friendship society, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo speaks:

[Begin Mueckenberger recording in German with superimposed translation] All public forces, the entire people of the GDR, heard with great approval the speech by Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the Central Committee plenum, Erich Mueckenberger says. We agree with all the utterances contained in it. The party, government, the national front and all public organizations of the GDR consider that the socialist community of states, in close and tried and tested cooperation, possess both the strength and opportunities to resolve the problems confronting it both in the 80's and beyond. Closely linked to one another, united by eternal alliance with the main force of our community, with the Soviet Union, we are in a position to realize our joint plans of socialist development. We express solidarity with the opinion of Comrade Chernenko that the even greater cohesion of states of the socialist community is inextricably linked with the main question of our time, the tireless struggle against the danger of atomic war, for the safeguarding of peace, for detente, disarmament, and the elimination of war from human life.

GDR TRADE OFFICIAL ON GOODS EXCHANGE WITH USSR

LD191254 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] It is reported from Berlin that the first refrigeration installations for long-term storage of agricultural produce have been dispatched to the Soviet Union. Here is a report by our correspondent Oleg Blinov:

The supply of refrigerators to the Soviet Union from the GDR is being carried out within the framework of the agreement on trade turnover and payments between the two countries for the 1981-85 period and also other agreements in the field of economic cooperation. In accordance with these documents the Soviet Union will this year be importing from the GDR various types of machinery, equipment and transport facilities, including equipment for installations due to be commissioned and for the current 5-year plan's new construction projects. In turn the Soviet Union will continue its deliveries to the GDR of the main types of fuel, energy, raw materials and materials of great importance for ensuring the development of the republic's national economy.

The other day I had the opportunity to record an interview with Comrade Stiawa, the GDR's first deputy commercial representative in the USSR. This is what he had to say:

[Begin Stiawa recording in German, with superimposed translation] The foreign trade relations between the GDR and the USSR are developing in a stable and systematic way, and this is producing marked results. The trade turnover between the two countries is continuing to mount. In 1984 it will be R14 billion. Last year was a notable one for our republic since for the first time the level of exports to the Soviet Union equalled the level of imports. The Soviet Union's requirements for goods from the GDR have increased, and our enterprises have endeavored to do all they can to satisfy them.

The Soviet Union is the GDR's major trading partner, accounting for almost 40 percent of all the republic's foreign trade. At the same time I should like to note that our country also occupies first place among the Soviet Union's trade partners. This has been the position since 1959.

A particular place in the development of mutually-beneficial relations between our countries is occupied by cooperation within the framework of the programs for production specialization and joint production. Thus at the present time over 60 percent of the machines and equipment being exported to the Soviet Union from the GDR are being produced on the basis of agreements in this field. This is an important prerequisite for the further steady enhancement of technical standards and improvement of the quality of products being supplied to each other. At the same time we are trying to contribute what we can to a solution of important tasks facing the Soviet Union. In particular there is provision for the GDR's participation in the implementation of the Soviet Food Program in 19 areas, including over 500 specific installations. The areas include refrigeration and warehousing, the bread-baking industry and dairy production.

By availing themselves of the advantages of socialist integration, the Soviet Union and the GDR are making a considerable contribution to strengthening the economic and defensive potential not only of our states but also of the whole community of fraternal countries. The consolidation in every way of the gains of socialism is the prime task of the working people of the republic. This year, when our people will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the republic's formation, it can be stated with satisfaction that we have during the whole of the period been living in conditions of peace. Now, when the international situation has once again been exacerbated through the fault of reactionary circles in the West, it is becoming particularly clear that peace must be protected and defended. [end recording]

NEW PROSPECTS SEEN FOR GOODS EXCHANGE WITH SFRY

LD200042 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1700 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Our observer Stanislav Nikolayev comments on the 1984 commodity exchange protocol between the Soviet Union and the SFRY. New prospects for the Soviet-Yugoslav trade cooperation, which has been developing in a dynamic way, have been determined, Stanislav Nikolayev writes. It is envisaged, among other things, that the tendency toward an increase in the volume of reciprocal commodity deliveries will continue during this year, so that the commodity exchange value will exceed $7 billion.

This large volume of trade has been envisaged by agreements concluded during meetings and talks between the leaders of our countries and also by the documents signed during the visit to Yugoslavia last year by Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The most important among these documents is Basic Guidelines for the Implementation of the Long-Term Program of Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation Between the Soviet Union and SFRY Until 1990.

As is known, Stanislav Nikolayev goes on, for several years now, the Soviet Union has been Yugoslavia's main foreign trading partner. Which commodities are being exchanged? Reciprocal deliveries of machinery and different equipment will again be increased this year. SFRY will supply our country with a considerable number of ships, storage batteries, transformers, equipment for light and food industries, as well as different kinds of cables. The Soviet Union will deliver to Yugoslavia power and metallurgical equipment, vehicles, machine tools, presses, foundry equipment, and building industry machinery.

Many Yugoslav enterprises are handling large orders from the Soviet Union. For instance, Agrovojvodina continues to build ships for vegetable transport and barges for us. General export will deliver equipment for new Soviet self-service shops while Astra will supply communications equipment. This year Soviet equipment will arrive in the oil refineries in Skopje and Pancevo, Kostolac, Kolubara, and Tito coal mines, in storage batteries factories and in the Belgrade agro-industrial complex.

In this connection it should be stressed that, thanks to the orders from the Soviet Union, virtually all Yugoslav shipyards will work at full capacity this year. To meet the Soviet orders, 60 percent of the production capacity of the transport equipment plant in Tuzla and almost 50 percent of the production capacity of the TTA, the Sarajevo machinery plant, will be used. Other Yugoslav enterprises will also make their contribution. Yugoslav deliveries to the Soviet Union will contribute to the expansion of a series of sectors of the Soviet economy -- among others, the communication service and the food industry.

Delivery of raw materials occupies, as usual, an important place in the Protocol on Reciprocal Commodity Exchange for 1984, Stanislav Nikolayev reports, including oil and oil derivatives, natural gas, rolled ferrous metal products, timber and cotton, while Yugoslavia will deliver to the Soviet Union nonferrous metals and chemical and agricultural products. Deliveries of consumer goods will also increase.

The new protocol on commodity exchange, our observer stresses, creates a sound basis for the activity in 1985 when the results of the implementation of the 5-year Soviet-Yugoslav trade agreement will be summed up.

Supplementary reserves should be used and cooperation in the fields of electronics, nuclear energy, robotics, and agroindustrial complex expanded. A successful implementation of the Soviet-Yugoslav trade plans for 1984 will contribute to further strengthening of fruitful, mutually beneficial, and wide economic cooperation between our two countries.

SPILJAK, MARKOVIC MEET MOSCOW CORRESPONDENTS

LD151851 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1019 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow 15 Feb (TANJUG) -- Milka Spiljak, president of the SFRY Presidency, and Dragoslav Markovic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, today received Yugoslav newspapers' and TANJUG agency's permanent Moscow correspondents.

Spiljak and Markovic talked with correspondents for about 1 hour and briefed them on the latest initiatives in Soviet-Yugoslav relations and current developments in the country.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR MEETS JARUZELSKI, OLZSOWSKI

LD201604 Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Warsaw February 20 TASS -- First secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic Wojciech Jaruzelski today had a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, now in Poland on an official visit.

Negotiations were also held between Foreign Minister of the Polish People's Republic Stefan Olzsowski and the U.N. Secretary General. The sides discussed topical problems of the international situation. The need of efficient measures to end the arms race and liquidate seats of tension in different parts of the world was emphasised.

U.S. 'PEACEMAKING' 'DISGUISES HEGEMONIST PLANS'

PM211217 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[Yu. Glukhov article: "The Washington 'Peacemakers': The Bitter Fruits of Camp David Diplomacy"]

[Text] The worse the bloodshed in Lebanon, the more frenzied the voices in Washington clamoring over the successes of the U.S. "peacemaking mission" in the Near East. However, nothing can obscure the stormy background of the Near Eastern events.

"Failure in Lebanon," is how the WASHINGTON POST newspaper describes it. "The administration, which at one time regarded Lebanon as a bridgehead for extending U.S. influence in the Near East," the paper's observer (Dzh. Goshko) notes, "has found itself in a helpless situation..." "The 'peace agreement' concluded between Israel and Lebanon, which was characterized by the majority of Arab countries as a 'second Camp David,' has virtually lost its force only 9 months after it was signed," the Japanese newspaper NIHON KEIZAI notes.

Thus the capitulatory "peace" imposed on Lebanon by means of arm-twisting is collapsing under the blows of the Lebanese patriots. The U.S. Marines, allies of the Israeli punitive squads, were forced to retire from Beirut onto their ships stationed near Lebanon's shores. The iron fist of the United States and Israel undoubtedly still hangs over Lebanon, and any adventures may be expected from the interventionists. The Israeli military has just resumed the bombing of Beirut and the positions of Syrian troops belonging to the inter-Arab forces, and it is threatening Syria. However, the fact remains: We are witnessing the collapse of Washington's Near East strategy elaborated at Camp David and later updated as the "Reagan plan."

The mirrow of Lebanon's tragedy reflects particularly clearly the grave consequences which resulted from Washington's so-called "peace initiatives," the course of dealing with the Arab countries "separately," in isolation. As a result, the knot of the Near East conflict and its highly complex problems, far from being unraveled, was drawn still tighter.

Whereas until recently the question in the Near East was one of eliminating the Israeli occupation of the Arab lands seized in 1967, now Tel Aviv's territorial seizures have widened still further. Since June 1982, southern Lebanon, approximately one-third of that neighboring Arab country, has been under Israel's heel. This means that the Israeli aggression has assumed a new scale and that even greater efforts are needed to curb it.

The same picture is emerging as regards the Palestinian problem -- the core of the Near East conflict. As is well known, through the fault of Israel's ruling circles, the Arab people of Palestine, (more than 5 million people), are deprived of a homeland. Their land is being "assimilated" by the Israeli occupiers. In the course of the intervention in Lebanon, Tel Aviv gambled on the physical annihilation of the Palestinians and resorted to genocidal attacks. Suffice it to recall the tragic fate of the Palestinian camps at Sabra and Shatila, where mass carnage was perpetrated. Now many thousand Lebanese and Palestinians died when the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was at its height, during the blockade of West Beirut in 1982! How many of them are dying now under the barbarous blows of U.S. and Israeli artillery and aviation!

The question of the general normalization of the situation and of guaranteeing the security of all countries and peoples in the region, without exception, has become equally acute. Washington's "peacemaking" has resulted in new troubles and sufferings for the Arab peoples. The intervention in Lebanon is being implemented not only with American weapons and American money supplied generously to Tel Aviv, but with the direct participation of the United States itself.

An extremely dangerous situation has arisen. Hitherto the Near East conflict has not gone beyond the framework of Arab-Israeli clashes. Neither in 1967 nor in 1973 did the United States directly participate in military operations on Israel's side. It only gave all-around support. Recently, American-Arab confrontation on the battlefield has become a fact.

Until now the Near East crisis has been regional in nature, but it is clear that the direct military interference of a power like the United States threatens to make it global.

In the light of Lebanese events, the two approaches to a Near East settlement -- those of the USSR and the United States -- are still more distinctly revealed. The aggravated situation here is associated above all with Washington's rejection of the reasonable, realistic principles already elaborated for a resolution of the conflict. The American capital has cast aside even those provisions which it signed only recently. Thus, the joint Soviet-American statement on the Near East noted, in particular, that "a settlement must be all-embracing, covering all interested parties and all questions," and that "within the framework of an all-embracing settlement of the Near East problem, all concrete questions of a settlement must be resolved, including such key issues as the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territories occupied during the 1967 conflict, the Palestinian question, including the safeguarding of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and the ending of the state of war."

The Soviet Union, remaining true to these principles, continues to advocate strict observance of the principle of the impermissibility of occupying other people's lands through aggression and the restoration of the Israeli-occupied territories to the Arabs. The United States encourages the annexationist claims of its "strategic ally" Tel Aviv.

The USSR comes out in defense of Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity, but the United States, with its Israeli underlings, is splitting that country and stifling the Lebanese people.

The USSR demands the guaranteeing in practice of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to create their own independent state, in accordance with UN decisions. It supports the just struggle of the Palestinians under the leadership of their legitimate representative -- the PLO. The United States, contrary to the resolutions of the authoritative international organ, entirely denies the Palestinian people the right to self-determination and ignores the participation of the PLO and the Palestinians themselves in resolving their destiny.

The USSR, in granting all-around assistance to the Arab peoples who are victims of Israeli aggression, effectively promotes the Arab states' security and helps to cool the bellicose ardor of the adventurers and to stabilize the situation in the region. The American connivance with Tel Aviv, conversely, only adds fuel to the fire of the Near East conflict.

By encouraging the Israeli aggressors, threatening the Arab peoples, sowing discord between them, and kindling hostility between Israel and the Arabs, Washington is causing the prospect of achieving peace to recede. The American "peacemaking" becomes "mythmaking" to disguise the implementation of hegemonist U.S. plans and the recarving of the map of the Near East.

You only have to study the metamorphoses undergone by the separate Camp David deal imposed on Egypt by the United States and Israel, which promised "peace" for the Near East. Behind this smokescreen American troops were deployed in Sinai, the strategic alliance was formulated between Washington and Tel Aviv, and the Israeli military's attack on Lebanon, which culminated in the American-Israeli occupation, was perpetrated.

The same conjuring trick was performed with the so-called "peace agreement" of 17 May 1983, dictated to Beirut by the United States and Israel. This "document" did not bring peace to the ravaged, bloodstained country. The interventionists counted on using it as a cover for continuing the occupation. When the Lebanese rose up in the struggle against the unequal, humiliating terms of the agreement, the "peacemakers" started shooting them point-blank.

Lebanon's tragedy has shaken the Arab East. Never before have American imperialism and international Zionism in the form of Israel acted so cohesively, so brazenly, and so cynically, splitting an independent Arab state, flagrantly flouting its sovereignty, and destroying its population. The aggressive, hegemonist U.S. and Israeli aspirations, disguised as "peacemaking," came into direct conflict with the Arab countries' vital interests. The danger of losing their independence and becoming an American-Israeli protectorate confronted them.

That is why Washington's and Tel Aviv's plans met and meet with a resolute rebuff from Syria, a number of other Arab states, and the Palestinians. Even Saudi Arabia and Egypt have criticized U.S. policy in Lebanon. The Israeli people are also horrified by the prospect of being doomed to eternal enmity with the Arabs in the name of the interests of imperialism and Zionism.

That is why the failure of Washington's anti-Arab Near East strategy, which has manifested itself so clearly in Lebanon, is only natural. However, considerable efforts are needed to clear the obstacles in the path of a just settlement in the Near East which have been heaped up by Camp David diplomacy and the American-Israeli intervention.

The Near East does not need a peace under the protection of American-Israeli bayonets, the peace of Sabra and Shatila and the Al-Ansar concentration camp. It needs genuine peace and security, without fear for today and tomorrow. The path to this peace is mapped out in the well-known proposals of the USSR, which are acquiring increasing topicality.

ISRAELI FORCES ADVANCE NORTH, 20 KM FROM BEIRUT

LD212011 Moscow TASS in English 1932 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut February 21 TASS -- According to reports reaching here, a big armoured column of Israeli troops today crossed Awwali River, advanced northwards and began consolidating positions in the approaches to the town of Ad-Damur, approximately 20 km away from Beirut. The Banat sally followed immediately the massive bombings of a number of Lebanese areas by Israeli aircraft. The latest raid by the aggressors is the biggest one after they seized positions on the Awwali River in September last year upon occupying the southern part of Lebanon.

Moshe Arens, Israeli minister of defence, asserted today that the advance of Israeli units deep into Lebanese territory is ostensibly aimed at putting a stop to terrorists' activity. However, it is perfectly obvious that the aim of such statements is to camouflage the true aims of the Zionist rulers of Tel Aviv that try to suppress the national liberation struggle of the Lebanese patriots and to perpetuate the occupation of Lebanese and other Arab lands.

CPSU'S PONOMAREV CONFERS WITH LEBANON CP LEADER

PM171224 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Solidarity Confirmed"]

[Text] On 15 February, B.N. Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting with G. Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee.

During the friendly conversation, there was an exchange of opinions on topical questions pertaining to the situation in the Near East and the situation that has occurred as a result of continuing Israeli aggression and imperialist intervention in Lebanon. Solidarity was reaffirmed with the Lebanese people's struggle for the immediate withdrawal of the forces of Israel, the United States, and its NATO allies, and for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and unity of their country.

K.N. Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section, participated in the conversation.

SYRIAN CP LEADER INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON SITUATION

LD211958 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 21 Feb 84

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Vladimir Bilyakov]

[Text] An interview was granted to a Radio Moscow reporter by Khalid Bakdash, secretary general of the Syrian Communist Party. Comrade Khalid Bakdash replied to a question on the situation in the Middle East region by saying:

[Begin recording] The situation in the Middle East is complex and urgent and is liable to eruption. The reason for all this is clear: It is the policy of American imperialism and some of its NATO allies in their attempts to fully dominate our region politically, militarily, and economically.

The Americans and their Israeli allies thought that Lebanon would be easy prey, because it is a small country, its defense is limited, and so forth. But their hopes were shattered, and the Lebanese people confronted them with so much strong resistance that they were forced [word indistinct] to withdraw the Marines from the territories of Lebanon and to confine them on the 40 warships along the Lebanese shores.

The resistance in the Middle East in general, and in the individual Arab countries, to the plans of American imperialism and Zionism, is a [word indistinct] resistance. It must be said at this point that one of the main factors that must be preserved and consolidated is the alliance between Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Palestine revolution -- an alliance that arouses the sentiments of the masses in all the Arab countries.

Everyone, all the world, is aware of the major role being played by the Soviet people in consolidating and backing the struggle of the people's masses and the progressive forces to preserve their independence and to repel the aggression on them and to get rid of the plans of American imperialism which are backed by Zionism and the reactionary circles. It is not easy for America to carry out its plans in the region. This has been proven by events, because they are contrary to reality, contrary to the interests of the Arab peoples and contrary to [words indistinct]. The Arab people's masses and the progressive forces, with the assistance of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, will prove that the wheel of history cannot be put back and that our peoples will march forward in preserving their independence and in repelling the aggression and in liberating their occupied territories to proceed on the road of social progress.

The chief task of our Syrian Communist Party now is to strengthen and ensure the continuity of the anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist Syrian Arab national policy. This is a great task before our party at this stage. We are showing interest in this task and seeking cooperation with all the progressive forces in the country, and particularly with the Socialist Arab Ba'ath Party with whom we cooperate within the framework of the National Progressive Front in Syria. We are striving to widen democracy for the people's masses and the progressive forces; we are striving to firmly establish the internal front so that the country will be prepared -- that is the army and the people in all fields -- to resist every American aggression with the participation of Israel on the basis of the strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv.

We communists are earnestly attempting to bring together all the forces [words indistinct]. It goes without saying that we shall continue this policy, and I am confident that with the help of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries and their backing Syria is capable of foiling every aggression against it and of defeating this aggression and preserving its national independence and marching forward. [end recording]

SYRIAN-SAUDI MEETING ON LEBANON SITUATION NOTED

LD211116 Moscow TASS in English 0853 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus February 21 TASS -- President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria had a meeting here with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia 'Abdallah who is on an official visit in the Syrian capital. During the meeting, the sides discussed the situation in the region in connection with the latest events in Lebanon, SANA agency reports. Much attention was given also to other questions of mutual interest.

U.S. JOURNALISTS SEE REAGAN 'FAILURE' IN LEBANON

LD202147 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 20 Feb 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Aleksandr Zholkver -- announcer-read report]

[Text] At a White House press conference, journalists were informed that President Reagan has finally endorsed a plan for the withdrawal within the coming 30 days of the majority of American troops from Beirut, but as American journalists remark, the U.S. troops will be redeployed no more than 3 miles away, to the ships standing off the Lebanese coasts.

At the same time, four authors of an extensive analytical article in THE WASHINGTON POST on U.S. policy in Lebanon admit that -- and I quote -- the use of military power to achieve foreign policy aims has failed.

The NEW YORK TIMES, which also recognizes the almost complete failure of this policy, points out that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement supported by the Americans has been abrogated in practice, and the territory under the control of the Lebanese Government has narrowed to the area behind the railings surrounding the presidential palace.

POLITICS BY FORCE IN LEBANON 'BOUND TO FAIL'

LD192338 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1515 GMT 19 Feb 84

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by international affairs observer Nikolay Shishlin -- announcer-read report]

[Text] The severe crisis which Lebanon is going through, this tragedy of Lebanon, has its internal causes, of course. The polarization of the home forces in Lebanon looks like this: On one side are the present government, the country's president, the right-wing Christian forces; on the other are the Shi'ite organization Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party. This is only a very schematic representation, since the antagonist groupings include in their turn a multifarious and motley collection of forces. It is characteristic that political differences are being intensified by religious differences, and there is a de facto civil war in progress in the country.

In the last week, the military success has been of course on the side of the National Patriotic Forces. Now the units of the National Patriotic Forces are practically at the boundary which runs only some 200 meters from the Beirut International Airport, where the U.S. Marines are stationed.

There should be no underestimation of the heat of passions and the heat of mutual accusations between the opposing Lebanese groups. However, in itself this heat of passions is a derivative of outside interference in Lebanese affairs. It is first of all a derivative of the Israeli occupation of a considerable part of the country, of the U.S. military presence which is not at all a passive one there in the Mediterranean.

Now the United States is maneuvering. Of course it is maneuvering, for the simple reason that the American policy there has reached a dead end. Also, the mere presence of the U.S. Marines has become a very serious and severe drain on the United States, and President Reagan is well aware of this. The U.S. Marines are now being relocated to the battleships. It is expected that from the 1,300 Marines, some 1,100 will be sent to the ships while a couple of hundred will remain as guards at the embassy and the ambassador's residence, and additionally several hundred instructors and advisers are to be sent to the disintegrating Lebanese Army. In any case, the United States is not leaving Lebanon. Instead it is moving backwards [pyatitsya].

There is also maneuvering in another direction, in particular via the Government of Lebanon and President al-Jumayyil. Al-Jumayyil is extending an olive branch to the forces on the opposite side. He said he is ready to revoke the Lebanese-Israeli agreement dating from 17 May, which infringes on the country's sovereignty. He says he is ready to carry out a state reform which would give full weight and equal representation to all religious and political groups existing in Lebanon.

He also says he is ready to go to Geneva to resume efforts to reach a national conciliation. However, a great deal of distrust has built up, and the opposition demands Al-Jumayyil's resignation. Furthermore, the Progressive Socialist Party, for example, demands that Al-Jumayyil be brought to court. In other words, the knot of the conflict is currently tied very tightly, and there is no end to it in sight.

It is true that in the last few days a French initiative has been put forward. It is an interesting initiative in itself. The French propose to remove the Multinational Force from Lebanon and replace it with a UN force, drawn from the five Security Council members, which does not contain armed units. This makes sense, of course. But it leads to questions: Where will the Multinational Force go? How far away will it go? What will happen with the U.S. armada, which really symbolizes the U.S. military presence in the zone? It seems the Americans have no intention of taking their ships away from the Lebanese coast, no intention of reducing their military pressure on the whole situation in this zone. The French idea remains, regrettably, up in the air.

On the whole, there have been quite a few dead-end situations, quite a few. To ponder now how events in Lebanon may turn out tomorrow is very difficult, and very complex. This dead-end situation is being projected to some degree on the entire Near East. Only a short while ago, the leaders of the so-called 'moderate' Arab regimes visited Washington; these were King Hussayn of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt. They met the U.S. President, Secretary of State Shultz, and Secretary of Defense Weinberger, but it seems these talks ended with very meager and lame results. This is because the United States does not even want to hear about normalizing the central problem of the Near East crisis, the Palestinian problem.

Still, all these matters in Lebanon and the Near East contain a very clear political lesson, very clear indeed for the United States, and also for Israel -- namely, that the attempts to impose peace in this zone by means of force, be it American or in the Israeli-style, are bound to fail. Any such attempts lead to the opposite result, to results opposite to those hoped for by the lovers of politics by force. It is easy to destroy with a sword, but quite different means are called for to create, build, and organize. The cost of the irresponsible reliance on force is inevitably going to rise. In general, I would like to make the point that the results and consequences of imperial policy are always ambiguous and vacillating. This is confirmed by the American adventure against tiny Grenada, as well.

U.S. FUNDING NEW ISRAELI FIGHTER-BOMBER

LD192227 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Correspondent Leonid Rassadin report from Cairo]

[Text] The United States is increasingly openly pandering to Tel Aviv's aggressive militarist aspirations. This conclusion is being arrived at in the Arab capitals in connection with Washington's decision to allocate Israel $250 million for the development this year of a plan for the creation of the new Israeli Lavi fighter-bomber. These funds are part of the total figure of American aid to Israel in fiscal 1984, which amounts to the astronomical figure of $2.6 billion. It is the first time the Pentagon has made such a decision. According to the previous practice, any credits or free military aid to Israel from the United States could be used only for purchasing American arms.

Arab political circles believe that the Reagan administration's consent to finance the Lavi project is a direct consequence of the recent agreements on increased strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel. They particularly envisage close political coordination between both countries, joint planning, the holding of joint operations, and the deployment of American equipment on Israel's territory. The new strategic accords, achieved as a result of the talks late November last year between President Reagan and Prime Minister Shamir, provoked a shock even in the conservative Arab states. Here in Cairo, Egyptian President Mubarak noted that the broadening of American-Israeli strategic cooperation is an extremely dangerous factor and a serious obstacle toward establishing peace in the region.

In the view of Arab observers, the United States is thus again trying to intimidate the Arab countries, which reject the American-Israeli terror and diktat in the Near East.

IRAN STARTS NEW OFFENSIVE IN PERSIAN GULF WAR

LD212358 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1920 GMT 21 Feb 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Boris Kalyagin -- announcer-read report]

[Text] The situation on the Iran-Iraq front has again deteriorated. In the view of military observers, we have the signs of the latest critical phase of the war. Iran has started a new offensive on the central part of the front, timed to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the anti-shah revolution. Half a million men have been mobilized to carry it out. In Iranian military bulletins, this operation is called Val-Fajr V, that is it is the fifth stage of the Val-Fajr, the dawn, offensive plan which started last spring. The purpose of the present operation is to take the strategic heights in the area of the Iraqi [as heard] town of Mehran. If the Iranian troops fulfill this task, then the road to the capital, Baghdad, only 200 km from Mehran, will be open to them. Therefore, the new offensive has caused serious concern in neighboring Arab countries. We are still receiving extremely contradictory news about the progress of the battles. The Iranian side reports that its troops have occupied dozens of square kilometers of territory and have inflicted great losses on the enemy. At the same time, Iraq states that its forces have routed the Iranian units taking part in the offensive. In any case, in the view of specialists, even if the Iranian Army succeeded in gaining an initial success, Iran does not have sufficient material-technical capability and the necessary rear supply to support such an offensive. Iraq has a deeply echeloned defense over an area of almost the whole frontier, and Iran is unlikely to be able to break through it.

Fierce battles are continuing. What is more, the Iranian artillery is shelling major towns in Iraq, while the Iraqi side is responding in the same way. The number of dead and wounded are counted in thousands.

All attempts by international organizations, with the aid of mediation missions, to put an end to this fratricidal conflict have thus far not yielded any results. The war is enormously damaging to both sides. It is having seriously negative effects also on the international situation. The continuing conflict is splitting the ranks of the Arab states and the Nonaligned Movement as a whole. Syria and Libya, for example, are supporting Iran, while such countries as Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabic are giving help to Iraq. It is quite obvious that the continuation of the fratricidal war is to the advantage only of the imperialist forces. The present Israeli leadership is obtaining clear benefit from it.

It makes it easier for it to conduct its aggressive policy in conditions where part of the Arab forces is distracted by internecine strife.

The Reagan administration is using the conflict as one of the pretexts to justify the buildup of its war preparations in the zone of the Persian Gulf. The United States has concentrated nine warships there, including the aircraft-carrier "Midway." Great Britain has also sent its ships to the Persian Gulf area. They include the aircraft-carrier "Invincible." London is trying to justify this step by saying that the British fleet has to defend, so it says, the oil communications in the straits of Hormuz, since Iran has a plan to block this sea route. However, the moving of the West's naval forces only worsened the already extremely dangerous situation in this area. Events in Grenada and Lebanon have visibly demonstrated where the appearance of American warships off other people's coasts leads.

The position in the Persian Gulf zone has alarmed many countries located on its coasts. There was a meeting in the capital of Watar, the town of Doha, of defense ministers of Arab states of this region.

UK, U.S. NAVIES IN GULF 'OPEN ENCROACHMENT'

LD211711 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1603 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (TASS) -- TASS observer Leonid Ponomarev writes:

Acting in close partnership with the United States, Britain has dispatched several of its combat ships to the Persian Gulf, following an American naval squadron. As the BBC reported yesterday, the urgent transfer to that region of the British aircraft carrier "Invincible" is now being considered in London. The American and British flotillas are racing there under the pretext of the "defense" of the Strait of Hormuz, but in reality, in order to once again give a show of force by means of their military presence and to confirm their imperialist claims to the region's oil wealth.

The demonstration of force by the United States and Britain in the Persian Gulf is giving rise to serious anxiety in the Gulf countries, as is evident from information agency reports. It has already become the norm for both Washington and London to take absolutely no account whatsoever of the vital interests of the Arab peoples. The military presence in the region, first and foremost of the United States, represents an act of open encroachment on the sovereignty and territorial inviolability of the countries of the Gulf, and a threat to the security of their peoples.

Moving aircraft carriers and sending landing parties of Marines to the shores of other countries has become almost the everyday practice for the leading imperialist states. The slightest trifle -- and the American flotilla rushes off to the shores of Central America, then blockades Lebanon, threatens Libya, or heads off to other regions of the world "on patrol" or for maneuvers imitating a global war, including a nuclear war. The impudence with which the imperialist powers conduct themselves in regard to independent governments and peoples, and the continual brandishing of the "big stick" with the aim of "teaching someone a lesson" or intimidating them, reveals the falsehood of the peace-loving statements lavished in Washington and the capitals allied with it.

The United States has transformed the region of the Near East and the Persian Gulf into a hotbed of growing tension where, as a result of Israeli aggression and direct American interference in Lebanon, bloody confrontations are unceasing. The Arabs have not known peace on their own territory for more than 3 decades.

The lethal "regatta" of American and British aircraft carriers and support ships which are heading for the Persian Gulf, is fraught with the threat of direct aggression in that region, of blocking shipping, and with the disruption of normal life in the region. In heating up the atmosphere in the Persian Gulf, the United States is not only threatening with repression those who do not agree with its imperialist policy in that region, but at the same time, it is clearing the way for Israel to extend its armed incursion in Lebanon. The calculation is simple: The attention of the Arab public is attracted to the Persian Gulf, and Israel can meanwhile do what it wishes in Lebanon. All of these actions are links in a unified anti-Arab policy of the imperialist forces, who are aspiring to subjugate the peoples of the Near Eastern and Persian Gulf countries to their diktat.

USSR-SAUDI RELATIONS EXAMINED ON ANNIVERSARY

LD171737 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Unattributed talk entitled "Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between the USSR and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] Fifty-eight years have already passed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The USSR was one of the first countries to recognize the annexation of the Hijaz to Saudi Arabia and to inform King ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz officially of this.

It is significant that Saudi Arabia, which was one of the few independent Arab countries at the time, was recognized at an early stage by the USSR, the country which openly declared its solidarity with the peoples' struggle for independence and demanded the establishment of relations between the world countries on the basis of equality and non-interference in internal affairs and sovereignty.

It can be truly stated that the moral, political, and economic support, which the USSR gave to Saudi Arabia during the critical stage of its development as a state, has helped it to safeguard its independence and unity and to force the Western countries to abandon their policy of economically boycotting it and interfering in its internal affairs.

For over 50 years relations between the USSR and Saudi Arabia were varied. In 1932, the Saudi foreign minister at the time, Prince Faysal, paid an official visit to Moscow and had talks with the Soviet leaders. The Saudi Arabian Kingdom maintained active trading relations with the USSR. The Soviet goods regularly arrived at Jidda Port and Soviet ships carried thousands of Muslim pilgrims during the pilgrimage season from all countries. A group of Soviet naval men and other Soviet experts helped to successfully build the Saudi economy.

It is regrettable that relations between the two countries have for a long time been on a level incompatible with the requisites of the contemporary international situation and the interests of the Arab and Soviet peoples.

The USSR sincerely desires the development of equal and mutually beneficial relations with all countries including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the sake of the international peace and security.

All opportunities for this exist, particularly as the leaders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have repeatedly expressed their high appreciation of the role of the USSR in today's world and particularly in providing support for the just struggle of the Arabs against the Israeli aggression and for the sake of the retrieval of their rights to sovereignty.

This was clearly evident during the visit of the 7-member committee's delegation to Moscow in December 1982. It is the committee set up by the Fes Arab summit conference in September 1982. The delegation was headed by King Husayn, the Jordanian monarch. The delegation included the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

It was particularly pointed out during the talks and meetings that took place between the delegation and the USSR that there was complete identity of stands between the two sides with regard to the settlement in the Middle East -- a fact which creates favorable conditions for coordinated expanded efforts for the establishment of a true, just peace in the Middle East.

The Saudi foreign minister met with the Soviet deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Andrey Gromyko. The visit by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to Moscow and the other contacts that take place between the two countries including their contacts within the framework of the United Nations indicate that the interests of Saudi Arabia and the USSR regarding fundamental matters are identical; they have a common desire for a secure peace on earth and the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe and the ending of current conflicts primarily including the conflict in the Middle East.

SYRIAN PARTY, GOVERNMENT LEADERS ON SOVIET AID

PM201622 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 21 Feb 84 p 3

["Reportage From Damascus" by APN special correspondent A. Krasnov "Specially for SELSKAYA ZHIZN": "Syria's Firm Stance"]

[Text] Damascus, Moscow -- All the Syrian radio and television newscasts now begin with reports on events in Lebanon. The front pages of the capital's newspapers also tell the readers about this. This attention is due not only to grief and concern for the destiny of the fraternal Lebanese people. What is happening in the neighboring country also directly affects the Syrians themselves. The U.S. President is threatening Syria with a military attack, calling it the main obstacle to the establishment of peace in Lebanon and throughout the Near East.

"Our country's policy is indeed an obstacle to the establishment of 'Pax Americana' in the region," I was told in this connection by (Abdalla al-Akhmar), deputy general secretary of the Ba'ath Party. "Such a 'peace' would mean capitulation by the Arab peoples and the imposition of Arab-Israeli domination on them."

People in Damascus assess the U.S. policy in the Near East as part of the global U.S. aggressive course leading to the exacerbation of tension throughout the world. In relation to this region, this was expressed in the stepping up of U.S. support for Israel and in the direct U.S. military interference in Lebanon. Everyone with whom I spoke in Damascus during these days also drew attention to another aspect of the American-Israeli strategic cooperation -- the desire to divide the Arab countries and make them, one by one, accept American terms for a Near East settlement. This was one of the main aims of the Camp David accords and of the "Reagan plan" in the Near East.

Syria's policy on this question is clear and firm -- to oppose American-Israeli plans both in Lebanon and throughout the Arab world. That is why it is threatened and subjected to political and military pressure. Because of the need to be constantly ready to rebuff aggression, Syria is now obliged to allocate around half its budget to defense needs. Moreover, the most highly skilled cadres are drafted into the Army from the production sphere.

"This is a payment for our people to live free," 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, Syrian deputy prime minister, stressed in a talk with me. "Freedom and independence mean more to us than material prosperity."

Allowing for these complex conditions, 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah makes a positive assessment of the state of Syria's economy. In his opinion, Soviet-Syrian economic cooperation plays an important role. The most vivid example is the Euphrates hydroengineering complex, which has become the country's main source of electricity and creates the conditions for the agricultural exploitation of new land. 'Abd al-Qadir Qadurrah particularly noted that projects being created with Soviet assistance are promoting the growth of the gross national product, and this helps Syria to more firmly and resolutely withstand imperialist pressure.

(Abdalla al-Akhmar), deputy general secretary of the Ba'ath Party, also stressed the great importance of Soviet-Syrian relations.

"The Soviet people," he said, "have proved that they are our sincere friends and support the Arabs' rightful cause in their just struggle against the aggressors. Despite the difficulties and the threat of aggression, we believe in the possibility of thwarting imperialism's plans."

NINTH USSR-ALGERIA COOPERATION MEETING BEGINS

LD181932 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The proceedings of the ninth meeting of the Soviet-Algerian Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation has begun in Algiers. The Soviet delegation at the meeting is led by Yakov Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. A substantial part of the committee's activity will contribute toward widening and deepening Soviet-Algerian relations in the fields of economy and technology, relations which marked their 20th anniversary toward the end of last year.

The equal and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Algeria helps the development of the Algerian economy, particularly the development of important industries such as ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, petroleum extraction, and gas mining industries, as well as the power industry. As a result of this cooperation, the public sector, considered a pioneer sector in the country's economy, is being consolidated.

Generally speaking, Soviet institutes have carried out approximately 70 joint projects and for many years training Algerian national cadres have occupied an important position in the cooperation. More than 1,000 teachers are taking part in this extremely important mission. They work in universities, institutions, vocational teaching centers, and colleges in the Republic of Algeria.

The current ninth meeting of the Soviet-Algerian Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation will be a new phase in the many years of fruitful and amicable relations between our two countries. Algerian leaders have repeatedly pointed out that the high standard of these relations in all fields, respecting the principles of equality and mutual benefits and noninterference in internal affairs on which they are based are considered an ideal example of the way to carry out relations between countries.

SOVIET-BUILT HIGH DAM IN EGYPT SUBJECT OF 'LIES'

LD211939 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 21 Feb 84

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Vladimir Bilyakov]

[Text] It is common knowledge that many efforts have been exerted and continue to be exerted by specific circles in Egypt, backed by imperialist forces, to plant the seed of enmity to the Soviet Union in the hearts of the Egyptians and to prevent the normalization of Egyptian-Soviet relations. Among the targets that the enemies of the Soviet Union like to attack is the high dam, which was built with Soviet assistance. This is self-evident since the high dam has become the symbol of Egyptian-Soviet friendship. Many fabrications and lies have been made about this great construction concerning its ineffectiveness and its harm to the Egyptian economy. Recently it was reported that the soil in the Nile valley has deteriorated because of the high dam. However, this fabrication dissipated just like the previous fabrications. The official committee that was set up comprised of senior experts in agriculture and irrigation came to the conclusion that this deterioration was not caused by the high dam at all. AL-AHRAM said that the committee has stressed that the problems of Egyptian agriculture are results of other reasons altogether, including the pollution of the Nile with industrial waste and the [word indistinct] use of chemical fertilizers and the lack of specialized manpower. As to the high dam, the committee pointed to its huge economic effectiveness. If we take, for instance, just the questions of agriculture, the dam controls the water level of the Nile River, a fact that saves the Egyptian farmers from floods and drought. Mahir Abaza, minister of Egyptian electricity, spoke recently to the magazine OCTOBER about the effectiveness of the high dam and said that the dam is benefiting us. He expressed thanks to the Soviet Union for its assistance in the building of this huge project in Africa.

SOVIET-LIBYAN COOPERATIVE VENTURES LAUDED

LD171814 Moscow TASS in English 1723 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS -- TASS commentator Sergey Zinchuk writes:

Lately, the trade and economic ties between the Soviet Union and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah have been increasingly assuming a broader scope. The mutually advantageous business contacts are developing in such sectors as ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, power engineering, transport construction, and agriculture.

Organizations of the two countries joined hands in Libya to carry out a set of geological prospecting activities, and to build a number of economic projects. Thus, the "Tajura" nuclear research centre established in Libya became one of the largest research institutions in the whole of the Middle Eastern region and a large centre for training national cadres in this most complex field of modern science. Now the center is pursuing diverse studies into the prospects for peacefulness of atomic energy.

One feature of the Soviet-Libyan cooperation has been that the sides strive both to contribute to the emergence of a powerful national economy in Libya and also to assure its sustainable development in the future. With these aims in mind, the USSR and Libya are jointly carrying out a whole set of studies into the prospects for the development of whole sectors.

Thus, these efforts have produced a blueprint for the development of high-voltage power grids with a view to the eventual establishment of a single national power system in a period ending in 1995, and soil and other maps of the coastal part of the country. The recommendations and conclusions contained in the papers provide the basis for a further development of the Soviet-Libyan cooperation in the respective fields.

At present, the USSR and Libya plan to expand their business links. Among other things, the two countries expect to participate jointly in building electric power stations, the second stage of the metallurgical complex, of enterprises of chemical industry and non-ferrous metallurgy.

LIBYAN G.P.'S CONGRESS DEBATES POLICIES

LD171307 Moscow TASS in English 1227 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli February 17 TASS -- A regular 9th session of the General People's Congress, the supreme body of state power, has closed in the capital of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Its participants discussed topical issues of the domestic and foreign policy and adopted a number of laws aimed at developing the country, deepening social transformations, and improving the work of the administrative and managerial personnel.

Delegates to the session firmly condemned the aggressive policy of imperialism, above all U.S. imperialism, the policy of brigandage and terrorism pursued by the U.S. Administration in the world arena. They discussed the explosive situation which has formed in the Middle East as a result of the aggressive actions of the United States and Israel, and expressed solidarity with the Lebanese people's courageous struggle to oppose the U.S.-Israeli aggression.

The session of the General People's Congress protested the sanguinary crimes perpetrated by the Israeli Army in the occupied Arab territories.

The forum participants expressed their deep worry over the deployment of U.S. medium range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. They pointed out that U.S. missiles stationed in the European Continent presented an immediate threat to all peoples of the Mediterranean basin and jeopardized world peace.

Delegates to the session of the General People's Congress of Libya unanimously stressed it was essential to further reinforce the relations of friendship and cooperation between Libya and the countries of the socialist community.

U.S. ACTIONS TOWARD AFRO-ASIAN NATIONS NOTED

LD172154 Moscow in English to Africa 1700 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] According to earlier reports, a coup, masterminded by imperialism was disclosed in Ethiopia. Following that, four American citizens who worked for American representative agencies in Addis Ababa were expelled from that country.

The United States and other Western countries do not like the independent course of revolutionary Ethiopia, our commentator Nikolay Fedorov writes. Directly or indirectly, the imperialist forces seek to hinder its policies to overcome backwardness and to build a society of social justice. Those forces just won't put up with the intention of Ethiopia and other socialist-oriented nations in Africa to seek progress, not by taking [words indistinct] but by promoting mutually advantageous cooperation based on equality. What the imperialists hate most is those nations' cooperation with the socialist community. They claim that cooperation affects the national interests of the United States. The White House's official documents subscribe to that claim as well.

Washington recently circulated a special directive for its high-ranking officials abroad. The directive deals with coordinating the political and secret operations conducted by federal agencies in the country and abroad. Its essence has been published in the press. The directive said that the Americans should establish their domination over the critical regions of the world, including the Horn of Africa. It also said that according to the American Administration, the nations that secretly or openly pursue anti-American policies, which in essence means independent policies, should be isolated or incited against each other. Ethiopia, too, is among the 12 Afro-Asian nations for whom the United States has no respect. So what could be more explicit?

Also remember the recent revelation in NEWSWEEK magazine. It said the Central Intelligence Agency has its men in Ethiopia. This, by the way, is well proved by the recent turning out of American diplomats from Addis Ababa who were, with good reason, associated with the CIA. Obviously, there is a great difference between the words and the deeds of the imperialist circles of the United States and other Western countries. Their actions also show that even after 10 years since the revolution in Ethiopia, the imperialists and reactionary forces have not quit their attempts to hinder Ethiopia's independent course of progressive social and economic transformation.

'ALLEGED WITHDRAWAL' OF TROOPS FROM ANGOLA VIEWED

LD201315 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Official U.S. circles are whipping up a propaganda rumpus around some kind of peacemaking action by the Republic of South Africa [RSA]. Allegedly on Washington's initiative, Pretoria is continuing to withdraw its punitive detachments from southern Angola, it is being stated. However, in African countries the opinion is being affirmed that the notorious disengagement of forces being intensively claimed by the United States and the RSA is nothing more than a routine maneuver designed to continue the occupation both of Angolan territory and Namibia, TASS political observer Sergey Kulik notes.

The optimism in the reports of the recent peacemaking trip to the RSA by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Crocker is feigned. It is an attempt by Washington to make its policy in Africa -- a policy based on support for the racists -- look more attractive.

Claims of alleged progress being achieved are lies, SWAPO President Sam Nujoma said, parrying all conjectures. There are no signs of an alleged withdrawal of racist troops from Angola coordinated by Crocker and the RSA. President Kaunda of Zambia also reacted to prospects of a disengagement without a hint of optimism. The frontline states are being very cautious in their attitude to reports of a pullback of RSA troops.

The cease-fire announced for regular RSA troops is not being extended by Pretoria to the operations of the terrorist group, UNITA, [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] which is fully maintained by the RSA and is essentially a component part the RSA Armed Forces. Soldiers of some units of the RSA Army, disguised as UNITA fighters, paint their faces and hands black and continue to mount armed raids on positions of the Angolan troops and civilian populace of the Province of Cunene. Thus the RSA has not yet withdrawn its troops from Angola, and racist Prime Minister Botha is already threatening to mount some kind of decisive reprisal strikes.

Ignoring the proposals put forward by Angola, the racists are again insisting on a linkage -- rejected by the whole of Africa -- of the solution of the Namibia problem with a withdrawal of Cuban internationalists from Angola. Pretoria is aiming, as the British SUNDAY TIMES states, to knock together at Windhoek a government friendly to the RSA without the participation of patriotic forces. The RSA press is with growing frequency reporting the idea of some provisional truce giving Pretoria just one more pretext for dragging out the Namibian settlement, just more time for preparing fresh aggressive acts against Angola.

While holding forth about peace, says the Malagasy paper ATRIKA, the occupiers are building up their military presence in the subcontinent of southern Africa, and stepping up their expansion into neighboring countries.

LIBYAN, SYRIAN STANCES ON CHAD 'LOGICAL'

LD181913 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Commentary by Nikolay Andreyev: "A Constructive Stance by the Libyan Jamahiriyah"]

[Text] Events in Chad are taking an increasingly grave turn. The growing foreign interference in the affairs of this country makes it a hotbed and a bridgehead for imperialism used for the carrying out of subversive activities against a large number of the states of the African Continent. What are the sources of the Chad events?

In 1979, the internal war, which lasted 12 years, stopped in Chad, thanks to the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, and the road towards the settlement of the situation in Chad was opened. At that moment, as testified by the American magazine NATION, the CIA began to lay down an operation whose aim, according to the magazine, is to break the nose of Libya against which Washington had been sharpening its teeth for many years, because of its anti-imperialist independent foreign policy. For a start, the Libyan force which was there at the request of the government of that country was supposed to leave Chad. However, since there was no trust that the war would not break out again following the withdrawal of the Libyans, a plan [passage indistinct].

The Libyan force left Chad and was replaced by the African forces. However, these were not just mere forces, but forces of countries in the orbit of the United States' foreign policy, under the control of the American advisers, and equipped with American weapons. Under the cover of these forces, Hissein Habre -- the Washington man -- rebelled and took power.

It appeared that everything was proceeding according to the CIA plan. However, the inhabitants of Chad did not overwhelmingly support the usurper government. The latter was forced to ask for direct military assistance from NATO. French paratroops then came to Chad. All this was accompanied by a noisy campaign in the West against Libya alleging that preparations were being made for a new Libyan incursion, and clearly showing that Washington and its partners were not only interested in Chad, but also in breaking Libya's nose at any price.

In this instance, one must give Libya the appreciation it deserves for its constructive and realistic stance towards the Chadian question. Leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, presented the core of this stance at a press conference when he said that a just and durable peace must be established in Chad. Scoffing at those who try to accuse the Jamahiriyah of interfering in the affairs of this African country, he said that the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Chad and the halting of foreign countries interfering in their internal affairs must be a prerequisite for the establishment of genuine peace there. It must be noted that the Libyan program fully conforms with the resolutions and recommendations of the international organization, chiefly the OAU.

The situation which arose in Chad as a result of the actions of the CIA and the Atlantic partners of the United States, greatly resembles, if not with the same dimensions, the situation in Lebanon. There too, American imperialism and its followers and stooges are trying to achieve what they claim a national reconciliation by force of arms. In fact they are aiming at achieving far-reaching political aims, first: turning Lebanon into an American-Israeli strategic bridgehead to exert pressure on Syria which, like the Jamahiriyah, is also pursuing an anti-imperialist independent foreign policy. Just as has happened in Chad, Washington is trying here to remove the Syrian forces from Lebanon in order to give the Israeli military, the so-called Multinational Forces and also the Lebanese reaction which relies on Tel Aviv the freedom of action.

Therefore, it is totally logical that Syria and Libya should act together to halt the interference in the affairs of Chad and Lebanon and that their stances should meet good reaction by all the forces which cherish peace in the world, led by the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community.

PROGRESS IN NIGERIA UNDER MILITARY RULE VIEWED

LD181440 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 18 Feb 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Aleksandr Korshunov]

[Text] Nigeria, one of the largest African countries, finds itself at the moment in a difficult period of transformation. The present government, which came to power on the eve of 1984, is taking steps aimed at extricating the national economy from the crisis which it has been experiencing in the past few years. The main aims of these measures envisage elimination of the country's immense foreign debt which totals many billions. The government plan for improving the economy is based on very severe austerities and on combating corruption which flourished under the previous government. And now over to our Lagos correspondent, Aleksandr Chernov, for a more detailed report:

The activities of the military government inspire trust in millions of Nigerians. The military regime has begun to settle problems which the former rulers had not even thought of, namely enlivening the economy and improving the life of Nigerians within the framework of the system existing in the country.

Payment continues to be made to blue-collar and white-collar workers the wages they received under the previous administration. The military Government of Nigeria has decided to confiscate private aircraft. Ten people who occupied high posts under the former government had private aircraft in Nigeria. In the past few years, this group of ten wasted about $5 billion on acquiring planes abroad while there was not enough money in the country to purchase essential goods and the standard of living of the nearly 100 million population of Nigeria was constantly falling.

Major General Buhari again confirmed in the past few days that the military government has sufficient data on the participation of many high officials in the former administration in the plunder of the state purse. Investigations continue into cases of illegal acquisition of wealth and abuse of official posts for profit. Shagari, former president of Nigeria, is under house arrest and the vice president, Ekwueme, has been put in the Kiri-Kiri Prison in Lagos, which is intended for particularly dangerous criminals. According to Nigerian papers, he was directly connected with obtaining money from contracts concluded for the sale of Nigeria's main wealth -- oil -- and also from the allocation of contracts for the construction of Nigeria's new capital, Abuja.

COMPARISON OF CHERNENKO-MALAGASY LEADERS TALKS

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 18 February in its First Edition front-pages a report on the meeting between Konstantin Chernenko and Malagasy leaders, headlined "Conversation Between K.U. Chernenko and D. Ratsiraka." This has been compared to the TASS English version published on page J 1 in the 17 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, revealing the following variations:

First paragraph, line three, PRAVDA reads: ...Revolution Malagache" Party and President of Madagascar Didier Ratsiraka, in the Kremlin on 17 February.

They held a friendly conversation attended by member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Soviet Foreign Minister... (substituting date for "today", supplying full titles of leaders, and picking up paragraph two, line three)

SHITIKOV RECEIVED BURUNDI UPRONA DELEGATION

PM171516 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Delegations Received"]

[Text] On 16 February, A.P. Shitikov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union, had a meeting with a Republic of Burundi delegation headed by E. Mworoha, general secretary of the Unity and National Progress Party (UPRONA) and chairman of the Burundi National Assembly.

A.P. Shitikov expressed thanks for the respect for the memory of Yu.V. Andropov shown by the Burundi side.

The exchange of opinions touched on topical problems of international life and questions relating to interparliamentary contacts between the two countries.

Burundi Ambassador to the USSR P. Ndikumana participated in the conversation.

KENYA FOREIGN MINISTER NOTES USSR SUPPORT

LD172156 Moscow in English to Africa 1700 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Among numerous delegations from all over the world attending the funeral of the prominent political leader and statesman Yuriy Andropov, was a party and government delegation from Kenya. Now a statement by the head of the delegation, the foreign minister of Kenya, Mr Elijah Mwangale:

[Begin recording] [Mwangale] I would like to state that we feel deeply sorry that this great leader of a great continent -- let's put it this way, because your country is a very big country and your people are a great people, that the leader of such a great country should die after a very short time in office as president. He had started to put his own footprint on the international field, because he advocated peaceful existence between nations and states and also advocated freedom for some of the countries which are still under colonial rule. He supported the liberation movement in southern Africa -- in particular we are very pleased with his policies on the liberation of Namibia -- and also he supported our African course against South Africa. So we view it from that point of view that he made a tremendous contribution within that short time in ensuring that there is peace and security in the international community and that the tensions, which although they have gone up so rapidly between East and West relations, we feel that he was committed to peaceful coexistence and the reduction of tension in the world.

[Announcer] After that, Mr Elijah Mwangale has expressed his attitude towards the statement by the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Konstantin Chernenko, of the Soviet Union's determination to continue the policy of peace and cooperation among the nations. He said:

[Mwangale] To us that is the key factor because the policy of the Soviet Union has been known, is already defined, we know that you want coexistence and peaceful coexistence in the world, secondly that again he repeated that he supports the liberation movement in Africa. I feel we feel very, very encouraged that this policy is continuing. We on our part would like to assure him, to assure the people of this great republic the Soviet Union, that our country has pursued a nonaligned policy. We are a neutral country. We would like to see improved relations between the Soviet Union and the Americans, and we feel that his commitment towards detente and also his appeal to the other nuclear powers to examine this whole problem of the nuclear arms race is very encouraging to us, and we are grateful that he will continue to support the liberation movements in Africa. We, on our part, we are grateful of course to the Soviet Government for the support they give us today in (?other) technical fields. For example we have got nearly 350 students from Kenya studying in very specialized courses in this country. This is our contribution which is very, very significant for us because most of the students who come here come with specialized courses either doing medicine, engineering, agriculture, and they come back at home and make their own contribution to our own development.

Also I feel that in the past, even before our independence, during our struggle for independence, the Soviet Union supported us a lot, our freedom fight, they supported us with all kinds of things, including logistics, and this is continuing, it is not only now, they are continuing to support Africa in many other ways. [end recording]

That was a statement made by Kenya's foreign minister Elijah Mwangale, the head of the delegation from Kenya, attending the funeral of the prominent Soviet party leader and statesman Yuriy Andropov.

ILICHEV CONFERS WITH ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

PM171707 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Moscow Meeting"]

[Text] A meeting has been held between L.F. Ilichev, USSR deputy foreign minister, and Wolde Goshu, socialist Ethiopia's foreign minister, who was in Moscow as part of the Ethiopian delegation at Yu.V. Andropov's funeral. Certain problems of international relations and bilateral cooperation were examined.

USSR GREETS CAMEROON PRESIDENT BIYA ON ELECTION

PM211012 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Telegrams Exchanged"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium sent a congratulatory telegram to Paul Biya on the occasion of his election as president of the United Republic of Cameroon, wishing him successes in his activity in this responsible post. In his reply telegram, the Cameroonian president expressed his sincere gratitude for the congratulations. The telegrams express confidence in the further development of fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and Cameroon to the benefit of both countries' peoples.

ALGERIAN COMMERCE MINISTER ON COOPERATION

LD201335 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The ninth session of the standing intergovernmental Soviet-Algerian Commisson on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation has opened in Algiers. Our correspondent Yevgeniy Lukyanov reports:

The commission session was opened by its cochairmen -- Comrade Ryabov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and Abdelaziz Khallef, Algerian commerce minister. In their speeches, they emphasized the important role this intergovernmental commission has been playing since it was set up in the cause of the further development and deepening of fruitful, multifaceted, and mutually advantageous Soviet-Algerian economic and scientific-technical cooperation. This is what Abdelaziz Khellef, Algerian commerce Minister, had to say in an interview:

[Begin Khellef recording in French, fading to translation] The ninth session of the standing intergovernmental Soviet-Algerian Commission on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, Abdelaziz Khellef says, has particular significance for us. It signifies a new landmark in the development of multifaceted cooperation between our countries. The great amount of work the commission is to deal with at the moment will give new stimulus to the forward development of Soviet-Algerian cooperation in the interests of both countries and peoples, Abdelaziz Khellef, Algerian commerce minister, stressed in conclusion. [end recording]

During its stay in Algeria, the Soviet delegation visited some of the sites of Soviet-Algerian cooperation. Today Soviet-Algerian economic and scientific-technical cooperation embraces practically all the leading sectors of the Algerian national economy.

STAGES OF AFRICAN PARTY DEVELOPMENT ANALYZED

PM171428 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 Feb 84 First Edition p 3

[Article by Doctor of Historical Sciences N. Kosukhin under the rubric "At Your Request": "In the Interests of Progress" -- first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] "Tell me, what are the vanguard working people's parties in Africa? What are their program aims and principles? D. Zagidov, Tynda."

The parties of the young African states have gone through three stages in their development. As a rule, in the first stage, during the period of struggle for national independence, they pictured themselves as mass organizations of the national-democratic front type.

The attainment of independence, and the choice of the path of radical socioeconomic changes in the interests of the working people -- the socialist-oriented path (the second stage) -- coincides with the formation of revolutionary-democratic parties. These parties are characterized by a clearer class-based ideological and political position compared with parties of the national front type and mark the transition from the national to the social class principle of party building (for example, the Algerian National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania).

The third stage is linked with the deepening of the national-democratic revolution in the socialist-oriented countries; it is marked by the formation of the vanguard working people's parties.

The creation of a vanguard party is a most important factor in progress along the road of socialist orientation, because this party is capable of ensuring the political leadership of the masses' activity in the revolutionary transformation of society. Historical experience attests that the maintenance and consolidation of the progressive forces' positions is only possible where there is a revolutionary party leading society and acting on the basis of the propositions of scientific socialism. The desire to create this sort of party is born out by the experience of party building in Congo, Angola, Mozambique, and Ethiopia. Thus, the second congress of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia -- COPWE -- in January 1983 stressed that the creation of a vanguard working people's party based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism is a necessary condition for the further progress of the Ethiopian national-democratic revolution.

The organizational-party building of the vanguard parties depends on specific historical and social conditions and the political situation, In some countries, (Angola, Mozambique), the vanguard parties emerge on the basis of mass revolutionary-democratic parties, and in others by way of the creation of qualitatively new political organizations (Congo, Ethiopia). At the same time, it should be stressed that the formation of the vanguard working people's parties is the result of the maturation of objective and subjective preconditions in the development of the revolutionary process in the liberated countries.

A most important feature of the vanguard parties has been the enshrinement of their leading role in state and society in policy documents.

The formation of the working people's vanguard parties signifies a deepening of the social content of the national democratic revolution and the development of its popular democratic tendency as a transitional stage along the path toward socialist revolution.

The establishment of the vanguard parties reflects changes in the class composition of the ruling coalition and in the distribution of the political forces within the state structure of power. Here the exploiting elements are removed from all state and political activity, while the urban and rural working class and the working people are declared to be the bulwark of the regime.

In recent years, socialist ideas have begun to penetrate ever more deeply into the milieu of the African working class, which is enhancing the level of its political consciousness. The proportion of politically active workers is increasing.

The main aim of the vanguard parties at the present stage -- as their policy documents note -- is to reinforce national independence, expand and strengthen people's democratic power, and consolidate and develop the national economy to create the political, ideological, technical, and material bases of socialism.

The vanguard parties' course toward the creative application of Marxism-Leninism's universal principles to the African countries' specific national and historical features is expressed in the consistent implementation of the Leninist concept of the noncapitalist development of formerly colonial peoples, in the use of the socialist community countries' experience with regard to foreign and private capital, in the creation of the state sector, in the restructuring of small-scale commodity production, planning, and in the implementation of agrarian reforms and the formation of cooperatives.

The vanguard parties that are being formed are close to the Marxist-Leninist parties in terms of their goals, program guidelines, principles, and ideological base. The vanguard parties have a number of features and attributes in common with parties of the Marxist-Leninist type. They are a unity of ideological-political principles, cohesion on the basis of democratic centralism, and the party's leading role in the revolutionary transformation of society.

The transition by the vanguard working people's parties to the positions of the working class is indissolubly linked to the recognition and implementation of scientific socialism's most important proposition -- the principle of proletarian solidarity.

The ideas of internationalism stem from the anti-imperialist and anticolonialist solidarity of the peoples of the socialist-oriented countries with world socialism and the communist and workers movement. This factor promotes the further development of the national democratic revolution.

Interparty ties between the CPSU and the African countries' revolutionary parties have broadened in recent years. Meetings between representatives of the CPSU and these parties are held regularly on the basis of coordinated plans and cooperation agreements; they are businesslike and constructive in character. Interparty relations enrich the political content of cooperation between the USSR and the African countries. "Solidarity with the peoples who have thrown off the yoke of colonial dependence and have taken the path of independent development was and will be one of the bases of the foreign policy of our party and the Soviet state," K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has stressed.

FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS CHIEFS MEET IN CUBA

PM171517 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS Havana dispatch: "Exchanging Experience"]

[Text] Havana, 16 Feb -- A regular consultative working meeting of Hungarian, GDR, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolian, Bulgarian, PRK, Polish, Cuban, Romanian, USSR, and CSSR foreign ministry press and information department chiefs has opened in the Palace of Congresses of the Cuban capital.

The agenda includes exchanges of experience from work in propagandizing the socialist community countries' peace-loving foreign policy, discussion of problems relating to the new international order in the sphere of information, and some other questions.

Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations I. Malmierca delivered a speech at the opening of the meeting.

NEW BOOK ON CUBA'S ROLE IN AMERICAS REVIEWED

PM201117 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[V. Volkov article under the rubric "Among Books": "With Confident Steps"]

[Text] The Cuban revolution's victory had a tremendous influence on the distribution of political forces in the Latin American countries. It opened up a new stage of the revolutionary movement on the continent by debunking the myth of so-called geographic fatalism -- the interminable dependence of Latin American countries on the United States. The Cuban people's exploit also showed that the socialist revolution's victory is possible under conditions of peaceful coexistence and quite unconnected with military conflicts. Cuba's example had an impact on the development of trends in Latin American countries toward pursuing an independent foreign policy course.

The complex range of peculiarities, new aspects, and characteristic features that revolutionary Cuba has introduced into international politics is examined in the book "Cuba in Inter-American Relations" (Footnote) (B.Kh. Vladimirov: "Kuba v Mezhamerikanskikh Otnosheniyakh," Moscow, International Relations Publishing House, 1984). The work sheds light on the foreign policy activity of the first socialist state in the Western Hemisphere during the 25 years of its existence and shows the role and place of Cuba in inter-American relations and its vanguard role in the struggle of the continent's countries for just and equitable cooperation.

The monograph reveals the essence of the policy of Washington, which since 1959 has been continuously making attempts, including attempts of an armed nature, to destroy the Cuban revolution and to do it economic and political harm.

Cuba, which has been courageously repulsing Washington's intrigues for 25 years, will continue to be ready to deal a worthy rebuff to any provocative actions. The firm and consistent foreign policy of the island of freedom, which the monograph reflects on many planes, confirms that the Cuban people, confident of the rightness of their cause, are ready to continue traveling their chosen path.

ZIMYANIN, YEPISHEV IN SHOLOKHOV'S GUARD OF HONOR

LD230011 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newscast; announcer-read report over video]

[Excerpts] The Soviet people and all of progressive mankind have suffered a heavy loss: The great Soviet writer, twice Hero of Socialist Labor, Lenin and USSR State Prize winner Mikhail Aleksandrovich Sholokhov, has died. The news has brought deep sorrow to the hearts of the people of Veshenskaya -- the Stanitsa [large Cossack village] where the author of immortal works and true son of the Communist Party and of the socialist homeland lived and worked for many years.

An endless line of people is today making its way to the rayon culture palace where the coffin containing the body of Mikhail Aleksandrovich Sholokhov has been placed.

In the guard of honor are the members of the Funeral Commission: Comrades Zimyanin, Yepishev, Shauro, Menteshashvili, Markov, Bondarev, Verchenko; and also Second Secretary of Rostov Obkom Pivovarov; representatives of the public and of the USSR Armed Forces.

CORRECTION TO SOVIET WRITER SHOLOKHOV OBITUARY

The following correction pertains to the item entitled "Soviet Writer, Nobel Laureate Sholokhov Dies" and subtitled "Chernenko, Others Sign Obituary", published on page R 7 of the 22 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT. The following signatories should be added after the last paragraph, last line:

...V.F. Shauro, B.I. Stukalin, G.M. Markov. A.A. Yepishev, V.A. Medvedev, A.P. Aleksandrov, V.M. Mishin, S.G. Lapin, B.N. Pastukhov, F.T. Yermash, T.N. Menteshashvili, S.A. Shalayev, T.N. Khrennikov, L.A. Kulidzhanov, N.A. Ponomarev, M.I. Tsarev, V.G. Afanasyev, L.N. Tolkunov, I.A. Bondarenko, N.M. Ivanitskiy, N.A. Bulavin, G.G. Abashidze, S.A. Azimov, Ch.T. Aytmatov, M.N. Alekseyev, A.A. Ananyev, T. Askarov, G.A. Akhunov, S.A. Baruzdin, A.A. Belyayev, Yu.V. Bondarev, G.A. Borovik, P.P. Botsu, Yu.N. Verchenko, Yu.P. Voronov, R.G. Gamzatov, A.D. Dementyev, K.M. Dolgov, N.S. Gilevich, A.T. Gonchar, N.M. Gribachev, N.V. Dumbadze, P.A. Zagrebelnyy, M.A. Ibragimov, A.S. Ivanov, Ye.A. Isayev, M. Kanoyatov, V.V. Karpov, A.P. Keshokov, V.M. Kozhenvikov, V.A. Korotich, F.F. Kuznetsov, T. Kurbanov, P.A. Kuusberg, L.M. Leonov, A.N. Maldonis, E.B. Mezhelaytis, A.M. Mirzagitov, S.V. Mihkalkov, D. Muldagaliyev, G.M. Musrepov, L.N. Novishenko, K.N. Nugmanov,(K. Yashen), V.M. Ozerov, B.I. Oleynik, V.A. Petrosyan, G.R. Priyede, P.L. Proskurin, R.I. Rozhdestvenskiy, A.D. Salynskiy, S.V. Sartakov, Ye.I. Skurko, (M. Tank), Yu.I. Surovtsev, N.T. Fedorenko, M.B. Khrapchenko, A.B. Chakovskiy, A.N. Chepurov, O.N. Shestinskiy, V.E. Beekman, O.O. Suleymenov, A.V. Kalinin, P.V. Lebedenko, V.A. Zakrutkiv.

MORE DELEGATIONS DEPART AFTER ANDROPOV FUNERAL

LD172014 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The delegations from the French Communist Party, the German Communist Party, the Portuguese Communist Party, the Indian Communist Party, the Italian Communist Party, the Greek Communist Party, AKEL, [Cypriot Communist Party], the Austrian Communist Party, the Communist Party of Great Britain, the Canadian Communist Party and the delegations from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of Kampuchea, Socialist Ethiopia, the Republic of Nicaragua, the People's Republic of Mozambique and other delegations, which had arrived to attend the funeral of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, have left Moscow. They were seen off by Comrade Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo; Comrade Dolgikh and Ponomarev, candidate members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo; Comrades Zimyanin, Kapitonov, Rusakov and Ryzhkov, secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee; and by senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee and other officials.

IRAQ'S HUSAYN SENDS CONDOLENCES ON ANDROPOV'S DEATH

PM171557 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee Politburo

To the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

It was with profound grief and regret that my comrades and I in the leadership of the party and state in Iraq received the announcement of the death of Comrade Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

It is with profound grief that we express our sincerest condolences to you and to the family of the deceased. We wish the friendly Soviet people further progress and success and we wish to see the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our countries develop and prosper for the good of our two peoples' common interests and the safeguarding of peace and security throughout the world.

Saddam Husayn, general secretary of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party and President of Iraq.

USTINOV ISSUES ORDER OF DAY FOR ARMY, NAVY DAY

PM221540 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 First Edition p 1

["USSR Defense Minister's Order, 23 February 1984, No 45, Moscow"]

[Text] Comrade soldiers and seamen, sergeants and warrant officers!

Comrade ensigns and petty officers!

Comrade officers, generals, and admirals!

Comrade veterans of the Soviet Armed Forces!

Today the Soviet people and servicemen in the USSR Armed Forces celebrate the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The USSR Armed Forces, created by V. I. Lenin and the Communist Party, have traveled a heroic combat path. In fierce battles against internal and external enemies, they defended the gains of Great October, secured the historic victory over the crack forces of world imperialism in the terrible years of the Great Patriotic War, upheld with honor our motherland's freedom and independence, made the decisive contribution to the peoples' liberation from fascist slavery, and won the gratitude of all progressive mankind.

Today the Soviet Armed Forces, rallied closely around the Leninist Party and its Central Committee, worthily fulfill their patriotic and international duty and watch vigilantly over peace and socialism.

Soviet Army and Navy Day is being marked in an atmosphere of high political and labor activeness of Soviet people evoked by the decisions of the December (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the ninth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet and by the forthcoming elections to the country's highest legislative body.

The extraordinary February (1984) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee confirmed to the whole country and the whole world the party's determination to coninue to follow the true Leninist course of communist creation and to ensure continuity in the implementation of domestic and foreign policy and the resolution of the tasks set by the 26th CPSU Congress. The working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, the people's intelligentsia, and Army and Navy servicemen unanimously support and approve the CPSU Central Committee plenum's decisions and are working with inspiration to fulfill and overfulfill the plan for the 4th year of the 5-year plan, augmenting material and spiritual assets, and strengthening our motherland's defense capability.

The Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist community countries consistently pursue a peace-loving foreign policy aimed at eliminating the threat of nuclear war, resolutely rebuffing imperialism's aggressive intrigues, and strengthening peace and the people's security. Through the fault of imperialism, the international situation recently has deteriorated sharply. Following a militarist, reactionary course, the U.S. administration has declared a "crusade" against socialism and is conducting an arms race on an unprecedented scale. A particularly dangerous action for the cause of peace is the deployment, now begun, of new American nuclear missiles on the territory of a number of West European countries.

Military preparations are accompanied by frenzied anti-Soviet hysteria. The United States is also drawing other imperialist states into its adventurist policy.

The complex present-day situation requires the highest vigilance, restraint, and organization from Soviet people and servicemen in the Armed Forces.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government adopt the necessary measures to strengthen the country's defense and enhance the Armed Forces' combat readiness and do all they can to prevent the forces of aggression from wrecking the military equilibrium which has been achieved. As Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stated at the Central Committee's February Plenum, we will continue to take care to strengthen our country's defense capability so that we have sufficient resources with which to cool the hot heads of the bellicose adventurists.

Comrade Army and Navy servicemen!

Comrade Veterans of the Armed Forces!

I congratulate you on the nationwide holiday -- Army and Navy Day!

I wish all Armed Forces personnel further successes in combat and political training, in improving military skill, and in strengthening discipline and organization.

To mark the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, I order:

That on 23 February 1984 at 2100 hours local time, festive fireworks be set off in our motherland's capital, the Hero City of Moscow; the capitals of the union republics; the Hero Cities of Leningrad, Volgograd, Odessa, Sevastopol, Novorossiysk, Kerch, and Tula; the Hero Fortress of Brest; and also the cities of Kaliningrad, Lvov, Rostov-na-Donu, Kuybyshev, Sverdlovsk, Novosibirsk, Chita, Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, and Severomorsk.

Long live the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy!

Long live the heroic Soviet people and their valiant Armed Forces!

Glory to the CPSU -- the inspirer and organizer of all our victories!

USSR Defense Minister, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Ustinov.

USTINOV, ROMANOV ATTEND ARMY, NAVY DAY MEETING

LD222109 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newscast; announcer-read report]

[Text] A solemn meeting of representatives of the working people of the capital and fighting men of the garrison was held in Moscow today to mark the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

In the presidium are Comrades Romanov, Ustinov, Chebrikov, Comrade Smirnov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; the head of a number of ministries and departments; military leaders; prominent academic figures; representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations; war veterans; and production frontrunners.

The gathering was addressed by Marshal of the Soviet Union Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister, who said that Soviet fighting men are implementing the decisions of the 26th congress of the CPSU, of the December Plenum, and extraordinary February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee by persistently mastering powerful weapons and combat equipment, and perfecting their military skill.

MILITARY SUCCESSES HAILED ON ARMY, NAVY DAY

PM221633 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 First Edition p 2

[Article by Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister: "Invincible and Legendary..."]

[Text] Sixty-six years ago Lenin's summons "The socialist homeland is in danger!" rang out over the republic of the soviets like a combat tocsin. The Communist Party and the Soviet Government called on the working people to rise with weapon in hand against the invading hordes of German imperialism. And our people responded with great patriotic enthusiasm to that appeal. The days of the mobilization of the country's revolutionary forces and of the heroic defense of the gains of the October Socialist Revolution from the invasion of the imperialist interventionists were the days of the birth of the Red Army. To mark these historic events each year 23 February is celebrated as a nationwide holiday -- Soviet Army and Navy Day.

The entire history of the Soviet state reaffirms the correctness of Lenin's proposition that as long as imperialism exists, the danger of aggressive wars and of attempts by lovers of military adventures to destroy socialism by force of arms persists. "Prepare in earnest, intensively, and steadily to defend the homeland, to defend the socialist Soviet republic!" was V.I. Lenin's behest.

The USSR Armed Forces, born of the revolution, have selflessly defended the Soviet people's right to build the bright future -- communism -- in all the wars foisted on our country. The magnitude of the tasks fulfilled by our Army and Navy and the justice of the cause for which the Soviet servicemen were fighting prompted unprecedented heroism and led them from victory to victory.

Our people will always remember the Red Army's glorious combat deeds during the civil war. In an attempt to stifle socialism in its infancy, the major imperialist powers -- Germany, the United States, Britain, France, and Japan -- and a number of other capitalist states moved against the proletarian revolution, together with domestic counterrevolution. In the struggle against us the enemies counted on their superiority in armaments, on the blockade, and on the white terror.

Nevertheless, despite this, the Red Army repulsed the invasion of the enemy forces in an exceptionally hard struggle.

The lofty revolutionary spirit, courage and steadfastness, and inflexible will to win of its warriors, commanders and political workers, and millions of Soviet people prevailed. Because of the failure of the military intervention, world imperialism suffered not only a military defeat but also a political defeat.

The Great Patriotic War was a most difficult trial for the Soviet state and its Armed Forces. It was a battle of unprecedented dimensions, intensity, and ferocity between the world's first socialist country and the most reactionary force of international imperialism -- Hitler's Germany. This war was a war not only for the freedom and independence of the USSR but also for the salvation of mankind from the horrors and obscurantism of fascism.

The entire Soviet people, young and old, rose to the defense of the socialist homeland. The Army and the people, the front and the rear, rallied together beneath the leadership of the Communist Party. Neither the surprise nature of the treacherous attack, nor the initial enemy superiority in weapons and military hardware and in combat experience, nor their inhuman brutality helped the fascist aggressors.

In this unprecedented battle the Soviet Armed Forces demonstrated invincible might and covered their combat banners with eternal glory. They destroyed the main forces of Hitler's army, struck a crushing blow against the Japanese militarists, and played a decisive role in achieving victory in World War II.

The USSR's victory in the Great Patriotic War cogently proved that the socialist state's military organization is the most advanced in the world. The party's inspiring and mobilizing activity, the servicemen's valor, courage and mass heroism, the talented military leadership of the Soviet commanders, and the skill of command and political cadres ensured our Armed Forces' combat and moral and political superiority over the enemy.

The Soviet economy withstood tremendous strain. It supplied the Army and the Navy with everything necessary for life and for combat. The combat hardware created by our defense industry was in no way inferior to the enemy's armaments and in terms of many indicators was superior to them.

The victory in the Great Patriotic War proved the invincibility of the socialist system in the USSR. It promoted the further growth of the international workers and national liberation movement and the disintegration and collapse of imperialism's colonial system. A favorable atmosphere for the struggle of the peoples of a number of European and Asian countries to establish the new, socialist system was created as a result of the crushing rout of German fascism and Japanese militarism. The world socialist system was formed.

The 40th anniversary of our victory in the Great Patriotic War is not far off. As we approach this noteworthy date, we again and again pay tribute to the great exploit of the Soviet people and their Armed Forces. The memory of those who fought and gave their lives for the sake of the socialist fatherland's freedom and happiness and for the sake of peace on earth will be preserved by the people eternally, from generation to generation.

The valiant Soviet Armed Forces' combat glory will never fade through the ages. It lives on in innumerable songs, folk tales, and legends. Invincible and legendary -- this is how a song glorifying the USSR Armed Forces' combat path describes our people's ardent love for the Army and pride in its heroic accomplishments. The Soviet Armed Forces' glorious exploits are not only the possession of history. They live on and are being augmented in the present-day deeds of the Army and Navy and are embodied in their heroic combat traditions.

Thanks to the wise policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet state our people have been living in peace for almost 40 years. They are advancing with firm tread along the path of communist creation. The other socialist community states' achievements in building the new life and the international workers and national liberation movement's successes are considerable.

Mankind's development along the path of democracy and socialism does not suit the most reactionary imperialist circles. They are deliberately exacerbating the international situation. The American imperialists in the grip of class hatred have proclaimed the Soviet Union to be "the focus of evil" and, ignoring the lessons of history, have declared a "crusade" against the USSR and world socialism. In practice the United States is today playing the role of chief organizer of the imperialist policy of aggression. All Washington's actions in the political, military, economic, and ideological fields are subordinated to the course aimed at establishing world domination and primarily at achieving military superiority over the USSR and the other Warsaw Pact countries. To this end the United States has unleashed an unrestrained arms race and is commissioning more and more new systems of nuclear and conventional weapons, spending enormous sums on this.

The siting of the American Pershing II nuclear missiles and cruise missiles on the territory of West European NATO countries in defiance of their peoples' will pose a particular danger to the cause of peace. This has fueled the world situation even further, intensified the danger of war, created an additional threat to the USSR and its allies, and made it impossible to continue the talks on limiting nuclear arms in Europe.

Disregarding generally accepted norms of international law, the U.S. Administration is declaring whole regions of the globe to be "zones of U.S. security" and flouting the sovereignty and independence of other states' peoples. The United States' naked aggression against Grenada, undeclared wars against Lebanon and Nicaragua, overt support for reactionary dictatorial regimes in Central and South America, Africa, and Asia, and the campaign of threats against socialist Cuba will go down as pages of shame in U.S. history.

In creating hotbeds of aggression and conflicts, Washington is relying on its NATO allies and striving to broaden that bloc's zone of operations even further. Efforts are being made to create new aggressive military blocs.

In an attempt to dull the vigilance of peoples alarmed by the U.S. Administration's militarist course its official representatives have begun to adopt the garb of "peacemakers." But the peoples cannot be deceived. They can see increasingly clearly that the present U.S. leaders' words are at variance with their actions. They are continuing to push mankind toward a nuclear catastrophe.

In the face of the intensification of imperialism's military threats concern to strengthen our motherland's defense capability and strengthen the entire socialist community's security assumes priority significance. Historical experience teaches us that the stronger the Soviet Army and the higher its vigilance and combat readiness, the stronger is peace on our borders and the more stable is peace on earth. We have grasped this well. The Great Patriotic War also taught us this.

The Soviet Union's position on the most important questions of the age is spelled out with infinite clarity in the CPSU Central Committee appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR, the documents of the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum, and the resolution of the ninth USSR Supreme Soviet session.

They provide an in-depth and comprehensive assessment of the causes of the sharp exacerbation of the situation in the world and confirm the USSR's principled foreign policy line aimed at preserving and strengthening peace and the peoples' security. This line has found practical expression in the whole package of broad-scale peace initiatives advanced by the Soviet Union.

A special place is occupied among them by our appeals to the United States on the questions of freezing nuclear arms, preventing an arms race in outer space, adopting a pledge renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons -- which the Soviet Union has done unilaterally -- and concluding an agreement between NATO and the Warsaw Pact on the nonuse of military force, on freezing Europe from chemical weapons, and so forth. All these proposals have one goal -- that of safeguarding the world against the conflagration of nuclear war and ensuring mankind's right to life.

The Reagan administration bypasses our proposals in silence and is reluctant to undertake concrete steps in this sphere. It intends to deal with the Soviet Union from a position of strength, threats, and pressure. The USSR resolutely rejects this approach. Attempts to conduct "strongarm diplomacy" with us are hopeless.

The essence of our country's foreign policy has been and remains the persistent, active struggle to prevent a new world war and eliminate the danger of nuclear catastrophe. At the same time we Soviet people cannot fail to reckon with the open challenge which imperialism has issued to us, with the growing threat of war.

Expressing the Soviet people's will, the party and government stress that the USSR will not permit the disruption of the established military equilibrium, and that jointly with the other Warsaw Pact states we are adopting the necessary countermeasures to strengthen our security. At the extraordinary February (1984) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade K. U. Chernenko, general secretary of the party Central Committee, said: "... Let nobody have the least doubt: We will continue to take care to strengthen our country's defense capability so that we have sufficient resources with which to cool the hot heads of the bellicose adventurists." Soviet people may be sure that their peaceful labor is reliably secured by the full might of the Soviet state and its Armed Forces.

The Soviet people are rightly proud of their Armed Forces and their tremendous combat might. The inexhaustible sources of that might lie in the very nature of the socialist society and its unsurpassed potential and advantages.

Foremost among these sources are the Soviet state's economic might and its highly developed production forces. The Soviet economy ensures not only a steady upsurge in the people's material and cultural living standard, but also the successful resolution of defense tasks. The present-day level of production, science, and technology in our country makes it possible to create -- if this proves necessary in response to imperialism's military challenge -- any types of arms, and to equip the Army and Navy with them in the necessary quantities.

The combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces is based on the indissoluble alliance of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry, and people's intelligentsia, the friendship and fraternity of all the USSR's nations and ethnic groups, the sociopolitical and ideological unity of Soviet society, and the unity of the Army and the people.

The Soviet Armed Forces at present are a wonderful school not only of military skill and military labor, but also of civic, ideological, and moral maturity, patriotism and internationalism, lofty discipline, organization, and collectivism.

The combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces is based on the spiritual strength of the Soviet people, educated by the Communist Party in the spirit of boundless devotion to the ideals of communism and to the socialist motherland. The might of the Army and the Navy lies in its unshakable loyalty to Marxist-Leninist ideology and in the readiness of Soviet servicemen to selflessly execute their patriotic duty.

The main and decisive source of the Soviet Armed Forces' combat might is the leadership of the Communist Party, which has acquired wisdom through its vast experience of revolutionary struggle and of the building and defense of socialism. It was the party which during the civil war and the Great Patriotic War united in its hands political, economic, and military leadership and became really a "fighting party." It is to the party that the inspiring and mobilizing role in the struggle against the enemy belongs. It was the party that led the Soviet people in overcoming incredible trials and in the attainment of the Soviet Armed Forces' victories.

The Communist Party, relying on the Marxist-Leninst theory, elaborates military policy with great farsightedness and determines the main directions for strengthening the country's defense capability and for building and training the Army and the Navy. The military councils, commanders, political organs, and party organizations are the conductors of party decisions in the Army and the Navy. The Army and Navy Komsomol is a reliable assistant of the party.

Progressive Soviet military science, which is acting increasingly actively as one of the chief factors in the improvement of the Armed Forces, is an important constituent part of the Armed Forces' combat might. It successfully resolves the tasks of finding new forms and methods of enhancing the combat ability and combat readiness of troops and naval forces and preparing for and conducting military operations in accordance with modern demands.

The Soviet Armed Forces, possessing well-trained personnel who are infinitely devoted to the Communist Party and the socialist motherland and equipped with modern combat hardware and weapons, will continue to reliably fulfill their historic purpose. In a united combat formation with the fraternal armies of the countries of the Warsaw Pact, which is the reliable shield of international peace and socialism, they are ready to deal a worthy rebuff to any aggressor who dares to encroach upon the freedom and independence of our states.

Our people and Armed Forces' servicemen are greeting the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy in a situation of still greater cohesion around the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee. They express warm, unanimous support for the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary February (1984) Plenum and are fully resolved to struggle selflessly to implement the tasks of further improving developed socialism in our country. They are applying all their strength and energy to successfully realizing the targets of the 26th CPSU Congress and the subsequent plenums of the party's Central Committee. Continuity in the Leninist party's policy is the guarantee of our future achievements.

Like all Soviet people, the Armed Forces' servicemen wholly and fully approve the domestic and foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state. Army and Navy personnel are profoundly grateful to the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Government, and their own dear people for their daily concern for the Armed Forces and for strengthening their combat might.

The Communist Party's appeal to Armed Forces servicemen to worthily fulfill their sacred duty to the motherland, to indefatiguably improve their combat skill and training, and to persistently master formidable weapons and modern combat hardward has elicited a warm response in their hearts. Winter combat training is now in full swing in the Armed Forces. An intensive struggle is being waged on land, in the air, and at sea for high indicators in combat and political training. The socialist competition mounted under the slogan "Be on the alert and constantly ready to defend socialism's gains!" is assuming ever greater scope among troops and in the fleets.

Soviet servicemen see it as their task to further enhance the effectiveness of combat and political training, to strengthen military discipline still more, to train ranks of masters of military matters -- excellent servicemen and rated specialists -- to step up vigilance, and to improve the combat training of subunits, units, and ships. They are seeking to mark the upcoming USSR Supreme Soviet elections with new successes in military labor. Soviet people have nominated worthy representatives of the Armed Forces as their candidate deputies of the supreme organ of state power. On election day Army and Navy personnel will cast their votes for candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people and will once again display loyalty to the party's Leninist policy of communist creation and peace.

Under the Communist Party's tested leadership the Soviet Army and Navy are always ready to fulfill with honor and dignity any order of the motherland and the Soviet people.

MILITARY PREPAREDNESS LAUDED ON ARMY, NAVY DAY

PM231115 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 Second Edition pp 2-3

[Article by Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolev, USSR first deputy defense minister: "Always in Readiness, Always on the Alert"]

[Text] Another glorious chapter, dated the 66th year of existence, has been inscribed in the heroic annals of the Soviet Army and Navy. Today our country is widely and fittingly marking the birthday of our valiant Armed Forces, paying a tribute of deepest respect and sincere gratitude to all the generations of defenders of the motherland for the boundless courage and mass heroism they have displayed in the battlefields, for their outstanding contribution to the defense of socialism's gains, and for the unflagging vigil they maintain in our distrubing times, safeguarding the peace and freedom of the builders of communism and flawlessly fulfilling their patriotic and international duty.

This year Soviet Army and Navy Day is being marked at an important, crucial stage in communist building. The party and people are devoting all their efforts to the great cause of improving developed socialism and implementing the historic plans of the 26th CPSU Congress and the decisions of subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, and are preparing a fitting greeting for the forthcoming routine elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet. The results of intensive creative labor and also the key tasks and prospects of the country's economic and social development were revealed in detail in the materials of the December (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the ninth USSR Supreme Soviet session and in the CPSU Central Committee's appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR.

There was a great response among the masses of working people for the materials and decisions of the extraordinary February (1984) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the plenum speech by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

In the sorrowful days of bidding fairewell to Yu.V. Andropov, Communists and all the Soviet people have rallied their ranks still more closely around the party's Leninist Central Committee and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and expressed their determination to fight selflessly to implement the party's domestic and foreign policy and proceed along the course of communist creation and peace.

Military cadres and Army and Navy personnel have displayed their class and political consciousness and organization with a new force and welcomed with their hearts and minds the call made in the CPSU Central Committee appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR -- to tirelessly improve their military skill and training, persistently master the terrible weapons and modern hardware, worthily fulfill their sacred duty to the motherland, and always be on the alert. Army and Navy servicemen are profoundly aware of their enhanced responsibility for the defense of the motherland and the gains of socialism in the conditions of an international situation which has deteriorated sharply through the fault of aggressive imperialist forces.

A clear class analysis of the prevailing situation in the world and a principled assessment of the adventurist actions of imperialism's aggressive forces are contained in recent party documents. They reaffirm the Soviet Union's unchanging adherence to the Leninist peace policy and at the same time express the will and unswerving determination of the party and all the people to give a fitting rebuff to imperialism's militarist policy and reliably safeguard the security of our country and the socialist community as a whole.

The Communist Party and the Soviet state firmly follow V.I. Lenin's precept of accompanying our steps toward peace with the intensification of all our military readiness, being on the alert, and zealously cherishing the country's defense capability and its Army. The strict fulfillment of these Leninist demands has been a law of the Soviet Armed Forces' life and activity from their very birth until the present day. Created and nurtured by the party under V.I. Lenin's leadership, they are developing and improving, resolving the complex, crucial tasks which face them in close accordance with Leninist teaching on the defense of the socialist fatherland and on the basis of the Leninist principles of Soviet military building.

The Soviet Army and Navy, called upon to protect the revolution's gains, our people's power, and the new, truly democratic system against all the people's enemies, convincingly demonstrated their ability to fulfill with honor the lofty historical mission entrusted to them back in the years of the foreign military intervention and the Civil War. As a military organization of the new, socialist type, they brilliantly demonstrated to the whole world their indisputable superiorities and inexhaustible potential and utterly routed the combined forces of international and internal counterrevolution. The valor and courage of the revolution's soldiers, their high moral and political qualities, and the brilliant victories they secured during the Civil War arouse universal admiration to this day.

Looking back on the Soviet Armed Forces' history, we express profound gratitude to the veterans of the party, the Army, and the Navy who worked tirelessly to strengthen the Armed Forces during the disturbing 1930's, when imperialist reaction launched massive preparations for new aggression against the USSR. The persistent improvement of the organizational structure of the troops and naval forces, their rearming on the basis of the latest achievements of science and technology, the elaboration and mastery of new forms and methods of combat operations, highly active political education work with servicemen -- all these things made it possible to raise the Soviet Armed Forces to a qualitatively new level and prepare them for the terrible trials of the war against fascist Germany, which perfidiously attacked the USSR on 22 June 1941.

The war forced on us by German fascism was the largest armed action by the strike forces of world imperialism against socialism and one of the gravest trials ever experienced by our motherland. The war decided the question "to be or not to be" for the world's first socialist state; it decided the future of world civilization, democracy, and progress. It is important to recall all this yet again in order to emphasize the tremendous historical responsibility placed on the Soviet Armed Forces by the start of the war which became, to our people, the Great Patriotic War.

To this day in the West there are many political and military figures and ideologists of various kinds who try to minimize the Soviet Army's role in the last war. However, the slanderous fabrications of the anti-Sovietists and falsifiers are powerless in the face of historical truth. That truth is that our valiant Armed Forces, rallied under the party's Leninist banner, not only stood firm against the onslaught of the fascist war machine, but made the decisive contribution to fascism's defeat, to the course and outcome of World War II as a whole. They honorably fulfilled their international mission, liberated the peoples of many European countries from Nazi slavery, and hoisted the banner of victory over the capital of routed fascist Germany -- Berlin.

The main author of this victory of worldwide historic significance was the Soviet people, led by the Leninist party. It was our heroic people and their Armed Forces who bore the main brunt of the war and played the decisive role in the defeat of German fascism, and later of Japanese militarism.

This feat does not fade with time, it is unforgettable. Soviet people return to it again and again as they prepare to mark the approaching 40th anniversary of their victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The Great Patriotic War, its results, and the entire heroic history of the land of the soviets convincingly demonstrate that no force in the world can crush socialism or conquer a people who have won liberation from exploitation and oppression and who are true to the communist ideals. This evidence from recent history is a terrible warning to the imperialist aggressors, first and foremost those circles which have not renounced their crazy plans of using weapons, including nuclear missiles, to put an end to world socialism as a social system.

The elaboration of these plans took on a particularly dangerous scale and activeness when the present administration, headed by President Reagan, came to power in the United States. Of course, it is not only a matter of specific personalities. The causes of the sharp increase in the aggressiveness of imperialism's ultrareactionary forces go deeper; they are engendered by the significant deepening of the general crisis of capitalism as a social system. However, it is an obvious fact that representatives of circles with clearly expressed imperial ambitions who preach the cult of force in international relations and have pretensions to recarving the world according to their own yardsticks, are now in charge of Washington's foreign policy. The turn in White House policy toward the attainment of military superiority for the United States over the USSR and for the NATO bloc over the Warsaw Pact was the result of this.

In accordance with this openly militarist course, U.S. military spending is increasing at an unprecedented rate. In the last 3 years the Pentagon has already received around $640 billion. It is allocated $280 billion for 1984. In the next 5 years (1985-1989), U.S. military appropriations will total $2 trillion. For comparison, let us point out that the Pentagon spent nearly the same amount in the 35 years after the war.

The U.S. ruling circles' course of achieving military superiority finds concrete expression in various doctrines for waging nuclear war and in the accelerated development of qualitatively new strategic offensive arms systems. They include the MX and Midgetman ICBM's, nuclear missile-carrying submarines with Trident missiles, B-1B and Stealth strategic bombers, and long-range air-, sea-, and ground-launched cruise missiles. Work is under way on a large scale to create an all-embracing ABM system. The intensified development of space war systems has been placed on a practical footing here. Along with all this, the United States is creating new conventional weapons systems, considerably increasing the numerical strength of the Armed Forces, and expanding their presence in various parts of the globe.

Active military preparations are also under way in other imperialist countries belonging to NATO. Contrary to their own peoples' will and the interests of international security, the Governments of the FRG, Britain, and Italy gave the "green light" for the installation of American Pershing-II and medium-range cruise missiles in their countries. The appearance of this type of weapon on the European Continent, close to the borders of the Soviet Union and the other socialist community states, intensifies the danger of war for our country and threatens the cause of peace in general.

Under these conditions, the Soviet people and the armed defenders of the socialist motherland draw an unambiguous conclusion for themselves -- be always on the alert, strengthen the country's defense capability, and steadily increase vigilance and combat readiness.

Guided by the people's will, our party, its Central Committee, and the Soviet Government show tireless concern to maintain the USSR's defense capability at the necessary level. "...Let nobody have the slightest doubt," Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed in his speech at the extraordinary February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, "we will continue to take care to strengthen our country's defense capability so that we have sufficient resources with which to cool the hot heads of the bellicose adventurists."

The countermeasures adopted by the Soviet leadership to the deployment of American medium-range nuclear missiles in certain Western European countries are a concrete, convincing confirmation of this hard line.

The Soviet Union is true to its unilateral pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. "But, knowing imperialism's predatory habits," USSR Defense Minister Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov points out, "we say with the utmost clarity that our strategic forces are at the highest degree of readiness to resolutely rebuff any aggressor. The strategists across the ocean cannot avert a crushing retaliatory strike by means of any kind of 'preemptive strike.' Nothing will save the aggressor from retribution if he is the first to use nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union and its allies."

Our Strategic Rocket Forces are constantly being improved, in accord with the existing agreements and accords.

All the other branches of the Armed Forces are also harmoniously developing. The Ground Forces constitute a terrible force. Their fire power and strike power consists of tactical and operational-tactical missiles. The potential of the formations and units of our Air Force has increased many times over.

They are equipped with supersonic all-weather aircraft with mighty power units and various kinds of missile armaments. The Air Defense Forces have powerful and sophisticated weaponry -- anti-aircraft missile complexes and aircraft interceptor complexes. Our Navy has all it needs to resolve tasks in ocean and sea theaters of hostilities.

All the Soviet Armed Forces' personnel constantly and persistently work to increase combat readiness, master modern combat hardware and weapons, seek effective ways of using them, maintain high moral, political, and combat morale, further strengthen military discipline, and enhance field, sea, and air training.

Our combat cooperation with the armies of the fraternal socialist countries belonging to the Warsaw Pact is developing and strengthening.

Armed Forces personnel are greeting Soviet Army and Navy Day with new successes in combat and political training and socialist competition. The last training year was an important stage in the fulfillment of the 26th party congress' instructions on defense questions. The combat readiness of formations, units, and ships was increased and their level of training was improved.

Naturally, we cannot rest on our laurels; we must constantly progress and constantly strive for more. A persistent struggle is currently under way in our Armed Forces for the full, high-quality fulfillment of the tasks set by the USSR defense minister for training troops and naval forces in 1984. Socialist competition among servicemen under the slogan "Be on the alert, in constant readiness to defend socialism's gains!" has assumed broad scoope.

The Soviet people can be confident in their Armed Forces, they can rely on them. Boundlessly devoted to their socialist motherland and rallied closely under the party's Leninist banner, they are always on guard. No development in world events will catch them unawares.

ARMY GEN VASYAGIN INTERVIEWED ON ARMY, NAVY DAY

LD222326 Moscow World Service in English 2020 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpt] February 23d is Army and Navy day here in the Soviet Union. Here is what a prominent Soviet military leader, Army General Semen Vasyagin, has told our reporter this connection:

In post-war years, the Soviet Army and Navy have greatly improved their combat capacity. The achievements of the Soviet people and the economy in the sciences made it possible to equip the Army with first-class hardware. Nuclear-missile weapons of various types became the foundation of the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces. The Soviet Army's might is a serious warning to all those who resort to military adventures.

Gen Vasyagin went on to say that the Reagan administration has openly proclaimed a militaristic and aggressive policy and is striving to secure military superiority over the Soviet Union and other socialist nations at all costs. Washington is trying to upset the rough military parity between the Soviet Union and the United States, the Warsaw Treaty nations and the NATO countries. It is striving for dominant positions in the world so as to dictate to other nations. This is borne out by the deployment in Western Europe of American missiles trained on targets in the Soviet Union and the socialist countries allied to it.

The Soviet leadership has been forced to take appropriate measures in response. Under agreements with the governments of the German Democratic Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist republic, tactical missiles with an extended range will be installed on the territories of the two countries. Corresponding Soviet weapons will be deployed at sea. They will match the American weapons being deployed at sea. They will match the American weapons being deployed in Europe. As the Soviet leadership has said, other measures will also be taken.

Gen Vasyagin went on to say: [in Russian fading to English translation] The Soviet people do not need war. We have no territorial or other claims to anyone. We want to live in peace and friendship with nations of the earth. As the extraordinary Plenum of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party emphasized on 13 February, we do not need military supremacy. We are not going to dictate our will to theirs. But we will not permit the military balance that has been achieved to be broken. Let no one have the slightest doubt that in future we shall see to it that our nation's defense capacity is strengthened, that we have enough means to cool the hot heads of bellicose adventurists.

PACIFIC FLEET ADMIRAL SIDOROV ON DEFENSE CAPACITY

LD230645 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Sailors of the Pacific Ocean have become the first to greet Soviet Army and Navy Day. Here is a reportage by our correspondent, Oleg Padenko:

[Begin recording] [Padenko] Admiral Vladimir Vasiliyevich Sidorov, commander of the Red Banner Pacific Fleet, speaks:

[Sidorov] At the extraordinary February Plenum of the Central Committee, Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed that no one should be left in the slightest doubt that we will continue in the future to show concern for strengthening the defense capacity of our country and for ensuring that we have sufficient means to cool the hot heads of the militant adventurists. That is where the source of our most direct and very important task lies. Right now the sailors of the Pacific Ocean are doing everything to raise the combat readiness of the Pacific Fleet and to justify in deeds the high level of confidence of our Communist Party and of our Soviet people. [end recording]